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THE PASSING OF CONGRESSMAN ELIJAH CUMMINGS

October 17, 2019 — A message from Student Advocates for Graduate Education

We, the Student Advocates for Graduate Education (SAGE) coalition, wish to express our thoughts and sympathies on the passing of Congressman Elijah Cummings, representative of the 7th district of Maryland and Chairman of the Oversight and Governmental Relations in the 116 Session of the House or Representatives.

Congressman Cummings was a champion for equality, committed to elevating the voice of the historically under-represented. He earned his bachelor’s degree in political science from Howard University in Washington D.C. and then earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Maryland School of Law. Throughout his career at the state and federal level, the Congressman promoted the need for access to higher education, stating: “Education is a right, not a luxury.” His legislative record showcased these ideals, including the FAFSA Fairness Act and the Bank on Students Loan Refinancing Act. His example continues to be a shining beacon for many across the country.

Congressman Cummings paved the way for a stronger, fairer, and more inclusive American educational experience. The SAGE coalition remembers and honors his legacy.

Student Advocates for Graduate Education (SAGE) is a coalition of Graduate Student Organizations from leading U.S. public research universities who are committed to improving the quality of graduate student life at their own campuses, and promoting access, quality, and opportunity for graduate and professional students at the federal level. This statement has the support of graduate student leaders from:

Michigan State University
Rutgers University
Texas A&M University
University of Arizona
University of California - Davis
University of California - Irvine
University of California - San Diego
University of Maryland
University of Michigan
University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
University of Pittsburgh
University of Texas - Austin
University of Washington