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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 8, 2019

2019 Sunshine in Government Award Honors House Oversight Chairman Elijah Cummings for Leadership to Strengthen FOIA and Open Government

WASHINGTON — In honor of Sunshine Week, NMOG is pleased to honor House Oversight Committee Chairman Elijah Cummings (D-Maryland) as the 2019 recipient of the Sunshine in Government Award for his commitment and work to strengthen open government. The award was announced on March 8th at the Newseum Institute’s Freedom of Information Day Conference in Washington, D.C.

The Sunshine in Government Award was created to honor individuals who have made a significant contribution over time to open government at the federal level. NMOG chooses honorees based on several criteria: each recipient contributes significantly to the public’s understanding of open government laws or how these laws impact people’s everyday lives; protects the public’s rights under open government laws, such as the Freedom of Information Act; and serves in government making current, concrete, and oftentimes unrecognized contributions to protecting or strengthening open government.

In particular, the selection committee was impressed with Chairman Cummings’ unwavering efforts in pushing to strengthen the Freedom of Information Act in 2016. “Throughout his career, Chairman Cummings has worked on a bipartisan and bicameral basis to write a clear presumption of openness into the law,” said Coalition Director Melissa Wasser. “He has also spent countless hours on pushing back on overbroad and unnecessary proposals to create new FOIA exemptions. Chairman Cummings consistently demonstrates a strong commitment to transparency, even on the most difficult of topics.”

For more information on the coalition or the Sunshine in Government Award, please [visit our website](#) and follow us on Twitter [@foropengov](#).