

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2010

The Honorable Alan B. Mollohan
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
H-310, The Capitol
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Mollohan and Ranking Member Wolf:

As you consider programs that deserve funding, we respectfully request that you fully fund the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) at \$516.5 million in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) Appropriations bill.

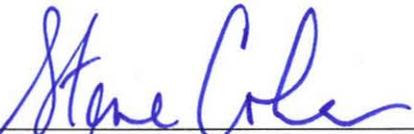
Although the FY 2010 CJS Appropriations bill demonstrated significant support for LSC by funding it at \$420 million, this amount is still less than its funding level fifteen years earlier. In FY 1995, LSC was funded at \$400 million, which would be approaching \$600 million in today's dollars. For FY 2011, at a minimum we request that you fully fund the President's request of \$435 million to support LSC and its mission.

Congress established LSC to operate as a private, nonprofit corporation to promote equal access to justice and to provide grants for high-quality civil legal assistance to low-income persons. LSC distributes more than 95% of its total funding to 137 independent nonprofit legal aid programs to low-income individuals and families in every congressional district. Programs which receive LSC grants help the most vulnerable, such as families facing unlawful evictions or foreclosures, displaced persons attempting to obtain federal emergency assistance, and women seeking protection from abuse. In fact, many programs have been besieged with requests for foreclosure assistance because of the subprime mortgage crisis.

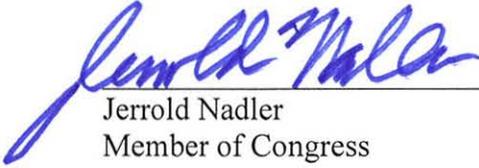
Nonetheless, according to a 2009 study commissioned by LSC's Board of Directors, Documenting the Justice Gap in America, many recipient programs of LSC funds must turn away half of all individuals who qualify and seek their assistance because of the lack of resources. Thus about 50% of eligible potential clients are turned away because the programs are underfunded. Unfortunately, state, local, and private funding and pro bono support have been unable to close the access to justice gap. Further, the current economic downturn will only exacerbate the lack of resources of legal assistance programs. The result is a potential catastrophe for millions of low-income families and individuals throughout the country who need but are unable to obtain legal assistance in matters relating to their housing, employment, and access to health care.

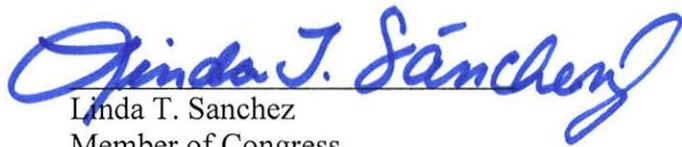
We hope you will do everything possible to ensure that this program receives full funding in the FY2011 Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill. We urge you to fund LSC at its requested \$516.5 million to help it provide legal assistance to those in urgent need.

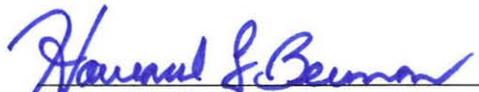
Sincerely,

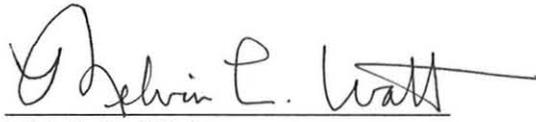

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress


Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

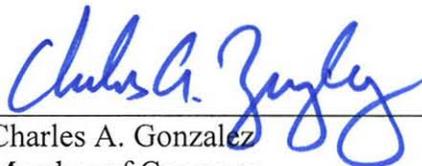

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress


Linda T. Sanchez
Member of Congress


Howard L. Berman
Member of Congress

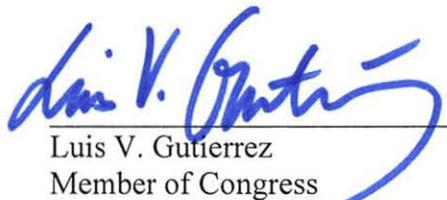

Melvin L. Watt
Member of Congress


Bill Delahunt
Member of Congress


Charles A. Gonzalez
Member of Congress

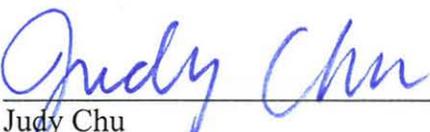

Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress

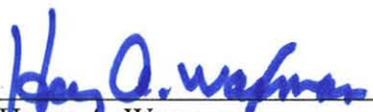

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress


Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress


Pedro R. Pierluisi
Member of Congress


Henry C. "Hank" Johnson
Member of Congress

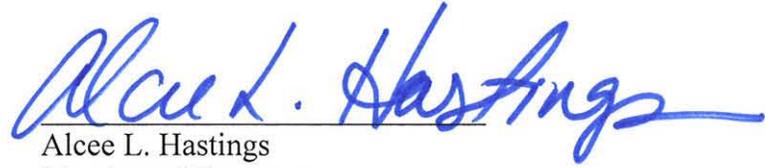

Judy Chu
Member of Congress


Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress


Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



John Lewis
Member of Congress



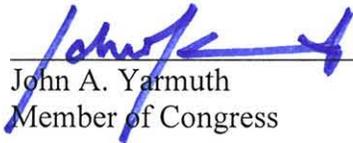
Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



Mazie K. Hirono
Member of Congress



John A. Yarmuth
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



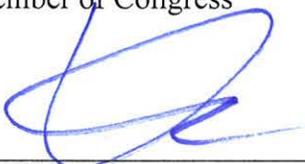
Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress



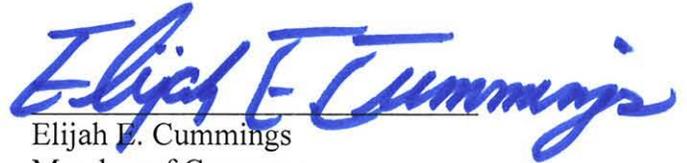
Edolphus Towns
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Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



David Wu
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



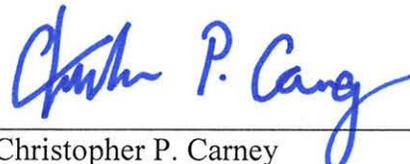
Joe Sestak
Member of Congress



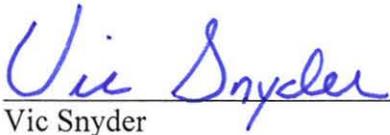
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



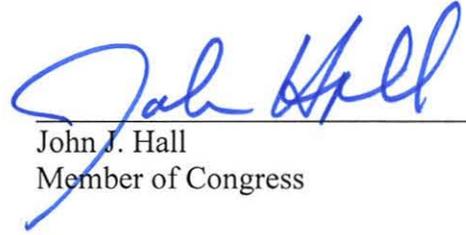
Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



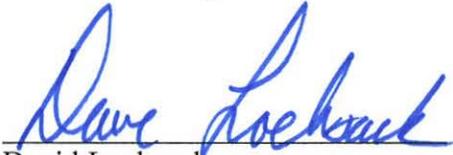
Christopher P. Carney
Member of Congress



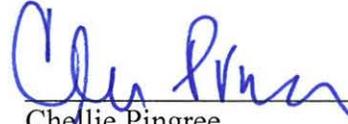
Vic Snyder
Member of Congress



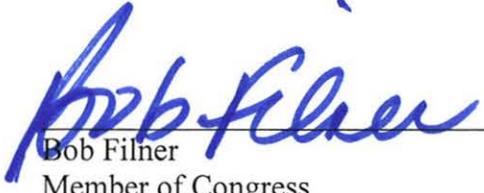
John J. Hall
Member of Congress



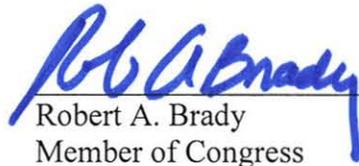
David Loebsock
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



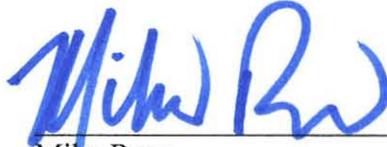
Bob Filner
Member of Congress



Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress



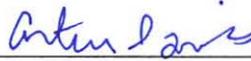
Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



Mike Ross
Member of Congress



Laura Richardson
Member of Congress



Artur Davis
Member of Congress



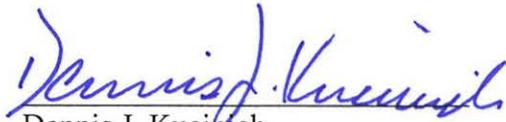
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress

Lincoln Diaz-Balart

Lincoln Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress
