

State Attorneys General

A Communication from the Chief Legal Officers of the Following States and Territories:

**Alaska * American Samoa * California * Colorado * Connecticut * Delaware
District of Columbia * Hawaii * Idaho * Illinois * Iowa * Kentucky * Maine
Maryland * Massachusetts * Minnesota * Mississippi * Montana * Nebraska * Nevada
New Hampshire * New Mexico * New York * North Carolina * Northern Mariana Islands
Oregon * Pennsylvania * Rhode Island * South Dakota * Vermont * Virginia * Washington**

May 22, 2017

The Honorable Thad Cochran, Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby, Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,
& Related Agencies
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, &
Related Agencies
506 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support for the Legal Services Corporation

Dear Chairman Cochran, Ranking Member Leahy, Chairman Shelby and Ranking Member Shaheen,

As state attorneys general, we write in united, bipartisan opposition to the Trump Administration's proposal to eliminate all federal funding for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) and legal services for rural and low-income Americans.

For more than 40 years, under Republican and Democratic administrations, the Legal Services Corporation has helped our residents to access justice. LSC funding helps veterans and military families secure important benefits, it supports survivors of domestic violence seeking safety, and it assists families facing foreclosure and victims of natural disasters.

LSC funding also fosters longstanding and useful public-private partnerships between legal aid organizations and private firms and attorneys nationwide who donate their time and skills to assist low-income residents in our states.

At a time of constrained state budgetary resources, federal funding plays an increasingly critical role in the provision of these services. We urge the administration to reconsider its proposal and maintain the federal government's longstanding commitment to legal services for families and communities in need.

Sincerely,



Maura Healey
Massachusetts Attorney General



George Jepsen
Connecticut Attorney General



Talauega Eleasalo V. Ale
American Samoa Attorney General



Matthew P. Denn
Delaware Attorney General



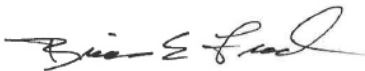
Doug Chin
Hawaii Attorney General



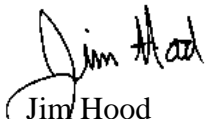
Lisa Madigan
Illinois Attorney General



Andy Beshear
Kentucky Attorney General




Brian Frosh
Maryland Attorney General



Jim Hood
Mississippi Attorney General



Cynthia Coffman
Colorado Attorney General



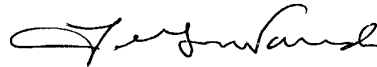
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Xavier Becerra
California Attorney General



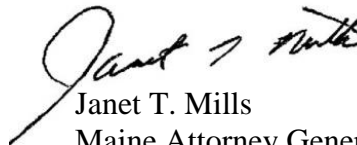
Karl Racine
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Lawrence Wasden
Idaho Attorney General



Tom Miller
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Janet T. Mills
Maine Attorney General



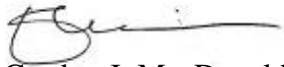
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Gordon J. MacDonald
New Hampshire Attorney General



Eric T. Schneiderman
New York Attorney General



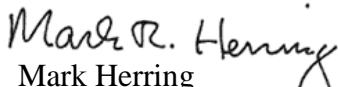
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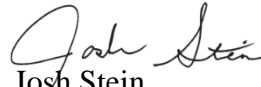


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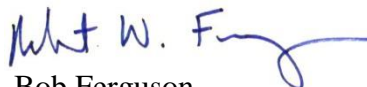
Ellen F. Rosenblum
Oregon Attorney General



Peter F. Kilmartain
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T. J. Donovan
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Bob Ferguson
Washington Attorney General

Copy: The Honorable Mick Mulvaney, Director, White House Office of Management & Budget