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May 1, 2019

Senator Richard Shelby Chairman U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations 304 Russell Building Washington, DC 20510

Senator Jerry Moran Chairman U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, & Related Agencies 521 Dirksen Building Washington, DC 20510 Senator Patrick Leahy Ranking Member U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations 437 Russell Building Washington, DC 20510

Senator 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: State Attorneys General Support the Legal Services Corporation

Dear Chairwoman Shelby, Ranking Member Leahy, Chairman Moran, and Ranking Member Shaheen,

As state attorneys general, we respectfully request that you consider robust funding for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) in the Fiscal Year 2020 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

For nearly 45 years, LSC funding has helped veterans and military families secure important benefits, supported survivors of domestic violence, and provided vital assistance to families facing foreclosure, victims of natural disasters, seniors, and disabled Americans. Today, it is also an essential support for rural and low-income Americans and families affected by the nationwide opioid epidemic.

LSC funding has also fostered public-private partnerships between legal aid organizations and private firms and attorneys across the country which donate their time and skills to assist residents in need. Nationwide, 132 independent nonprofit legal aid programs rely on this federal funding to provide services to tens of thousands of our constituents.

We thank you for your efforts to ensure continued funding for LSC. Please know that it makes a real difference in our states.

Sincerely,

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Talauega Eleasalo V. Ale

American Samoa Attorney General

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