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May 26, 2017

Honorable Steve Chabot
Member, United States Congress
441 Vine Street, Rm. 3003
Cincinnati, OH 45202

COPY

Re: Legal Services Corporation

Dear Steve:

As you may know, I am a member of the Board of the Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation. As such, I personally have a major stake in supporting its mission, which includes reasonably adequate funding for civil legal aid for the citizens of Ohio. My fellow Board members and I are deeply troubled by President Trump's budget that completely defunds and eliminates the Legal Services Corporation.

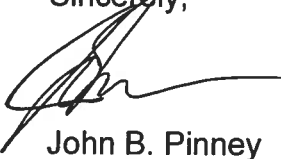
I also am the Cincinnati Bar Association's delegate to the American Bar Association's House of Delegates. The ABA strongly supports the continued funding of the LSC at a level that is no less than that for the current year (as recently confirmed by the continuing budget resolution for which you voted). In fact, while that level of funding is from any objective criteria grossly inadequate, it nonetheless does give critical support for the services now being provided for civil legal aid in Ohio. Moreover, it cannot be denied that, should funding from the LSC be cut or, worse, eliminated altogether, the citizens of Ohio, as well as their fellow citizens throughout the United States, will be severely affected and in some instances put at risk of great potential personal harm. Retaining the incredibly small portion of the federal budget now being allocated to the LSC cannot reasonably be thought to have any real effect on the federal deficit, but, if cut, would have immense impact on the lives of the thousands of clients who could no longer be served.

I'm wiring to you because, as a fellow lawyer who knows first-hand how critical the work being done by the Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati is, I believe that you and your fellow lawyers in Congress are most able to make sure that an appropriate budget allocation for legal aid support makes it to the final budget approved next fall by Congress. My colleagues on the OLAF Board, virtually all of my fellow lawyers in Cincinnati and everywhere in the United States, and I urge you to work with your fellow Representatives, including my own Congressman, Brad Wenstrup, to preclude LSC's elimination or defunding for FY 2018. Without a reasonable level of public support,

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there can be no "equal justice under law" for the citizens of Ohio. In fact, as I believe you know well, unless the vast majority of our fellow Americans feel that our "system" gives them a fair break and protects their rights as citizens, including those who don't have the means to engage a private lawyer, our cherished American way of life is seriously threatened and the ubiquitous courthouse motto of "Equal Justice under Law" will become a sham.

Sincerely,



John B. Pinney

JBP/tsl

c: ✓ Angela Lloyd, Executive Director, Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation
Honorable Brad Wenstrup



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May 26, 2017

Honorable Rob Portman
United States Senator
312 Walnut Street, Suite 3425
Cincinnati, OH 45202

COPY

Re: Legal Services Corporation

Dear Rob:

As you probably know, I am a member of the Board of the Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation. As such, I personally have a major stake in supporting its mission, which includes reasonably adequate funding for civil legal aid for the citizens of Ohio. My fellow Board members and I are deeply troubled by President Trump's budget that completely defunds and eliminates the Legal Services Corporation.

I also am the Cincinnati Bar Association's delegate to the American Bar Association's House of Delegates. The ABA strongly supports the continued funding of the LSC at a level that is no less than that for the current year (as recently confirmed by the continuing budget resolution for which you voted). In fact, while that level of funding is from any objective criteria grossly inadequate, it nonetheless does give critical support for the services now being provided for civil legal aid in Ohio. Moreover, it cannot be denied that, should funding from the LSC be cut or, worse, eliminated altogether, the citizens of Ohio, as well as their fellow citizens throughout the United States, will be severely affected and in some instances put at risk of great potential personal harm. Retaining the incredibly small portion of the federal budget now being allocated to the LSC cannot reasonably be thought to have any real effect on the federal deficit, but, if cut, would have immense impact on the lives of the thousands of clients who could no longer be served.

My colleagues on the OLAF Board, virtually all of my fellow lawyers in Cincinnati and everywhere in the United States, and I urge you to work with your fellow Senators to preclude LSC's elimination or defunding for FY 2018. Without a reasonable level of public support, there can be no "equal justice under law" for the citizens of Ohio. In fact, as I believe you know well, unless the vast majority of our fellow Americans feel that our "system" gives them a fair break and protects their rights as citizens, including those who don't have the means to engage a private lawyer, our cherished American way of

Honorable Rob Portman
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life is seriously threatened and the ubiquitous courthouse motto of "Equal Justice under Law" will become a sham.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John B. Pinney", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John B. Pinney

JBP/tsl

c: ✓ Angela Lloyd, Executive Director, Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation