

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 Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
2365 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Culberson
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,
& Related Agencies
2161 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable José Serrano
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,
& Related Agencies
2354 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for the Legal Services Corporation

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Serrano,


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.

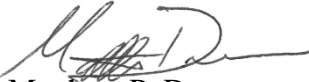
At a time of constrained state budgetary resources, federal funding plays an increasingly critical role in the provision of these services. We urge the administration to reconsider its proposal and maintain the federal government's longstanding commitment to legal services for families and communities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

Sincerely,


Maura Healey
Massachusetts Attorney General



George Jepsen
Connecticut Attorney General

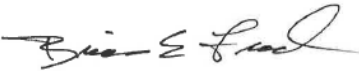

Talauega Eleasalo V. Ale
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Doug Chin
Hawaii Attorney General



Lisa Madigan
Illinois Attorney General


Andy Beshear
Kentucky Attorney General

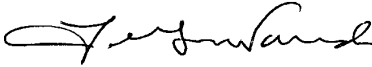

Brian Frosh
Maryland Attorney General



Cynthia Coffman
Colorado Attorney General

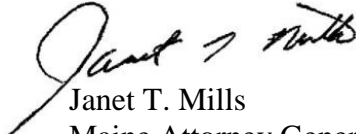

Jahna Lindemuth
Alaska Attorney General



Xavier Becerra
California Attorney General

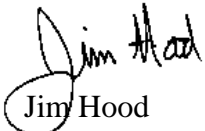

Karl Racine
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Jim Hood
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Gordon J. MacDonald
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Eric T. Schneiderman
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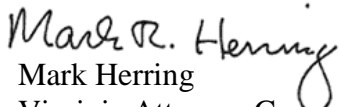
Edward Manibusan
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Josh Shapiro
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Marty Jackley
South Dakota Attorney General



Mark Herring
Virginia Attorney General



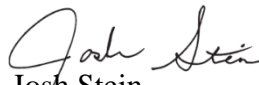
Tim Fox
Montana Attorney General



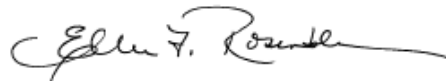
Adam Paul Laxalt
Nevada Attorney General



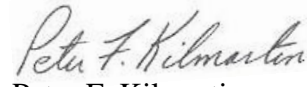
Hector Balderas
New Mexico Attorney General



Josh Stein
North Carolina Attorney General



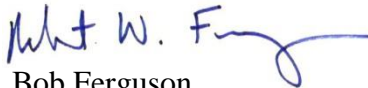
Ellen F. Rosenblum
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T. J. Donovan
Vermont Attorney General



Bob Ferguson
Washington Attorney General