

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

Janna Lindemuth
Alaska Attorney General

Xavier Becerra
California Attorney General

Karl Racine
District of Columbia Attorney General

Lawrence Wasden
Idaho Attorney General

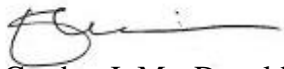
Tom Miller
Iowa Attorney General

Janet T. Mills
Maine Attorney General

Lori Swanson
Minnesota Attorney General

Tim Fox
Montana Attorney General

Doug Peterson
Nebraska Attorney General



Gordon J. MacDonald
New Hampshire Attorney General



Eric T. Schneiderman
New York Attorney General



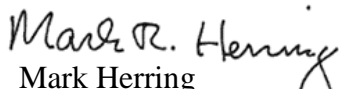
Edward Manibusan
Northern Mariana Islands Attorney General



Josh Shapiro
Pennsylvania Attorney General



Marty Jackley
South Dakota Attorney General



Mark Herring
Virginia Attorney General

Adam Paul Laxalt
Nevada Attorney General



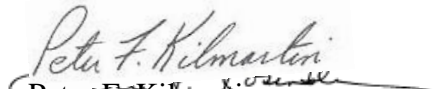
Hector Balderas
New Mexico Attorney General



Josh Stein
North Carolina Attorney General



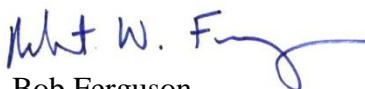
Ellen F. Rosenblum
Oregon Attorney General



Peter F. Kilmartin
Rhode Island Attorney General



T. J. Donovan
Vermont Attorney General



Bob Ferguson
Washington Attorney General

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