

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 9, 2006

The Honorable Frank Wolf
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Science, State,
Justice and Commerce
H-309, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Alan B. Mollohan
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Science, State,
Justice and Commerce
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Mollohan:

We write in strong support of increased funding for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) in the FY07 Science, State, Justice, Commerce and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. Last year, after being level-funded at \$330.8 million, LSC saw its funding reduced by 1.28 percent to \$326.5 million due to two government-wide rescissions. This year, we urge the Subcommittee to fund LSC at the highest possible level, and at the very least, restore funding lost by recent-year inflation and rescissions.

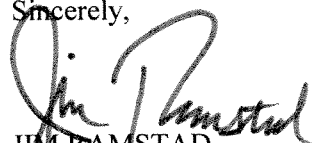
Today, a crisis exists in our ability to ensure access to the legal system for millions of low-income individuals and families, many of whom are facing new challenges and need assistance after Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma. A study commissioned by the LSC Board of Directors, "*Documenting the Justice Gap in America*," before the 2005 hurricane season, reported that one in every two individuals who qualify for and actually seek assistance from LSC-funded programs is denied help because of lack of resources. If the *Justice Group* study were performed today, the number turned away would likely be even greater since thousands of new clients are seeking help with a variety of core legal issues arising from the hurricanes.

Since 1996, grantees have focused completely on core legal services, in response to the clear intent of Congress that federal legal services funds be spent on basic, day-to-day legal problems of individual eligible poor clients. LSC currently funds 138 local programs, serving every county, state and Congressional District in the United States and its territories. These programs provide services to nearly one million people who struggle to get by on incomes below or near the poverty line.


Clients include women, victims of domestic violence, survivors of natural and national disasters, the working poor, veterans, military families, family farmers and people with disabilities. Their legal problems involve family relationships, domestic violence, health, employment, housing and many other basic needs. The failure to resolve these issues causes even greater hardship for them, and often leads to their reliance on other government programs.

Funds provided by LSC are indispensable to these programs that serve our most vulnerable citizens. Large numbers of Americans do not have access to the legal representation they need. Without at least maintaining funding for this important program, many more will be denied fair representation. We urge you to fund the LSC at the highest possible level to help meet this urgent need. Thank you for your consideration of this critical issue.

Sincerely,


JIM RAMSTAD
Member of Congress

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER


WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT
Member of Congress

Ma Q. Odell

Alan Smith

John W. Wiles

Pete Stark

Mike Row

Heather Zilk

Harold

Ed. B. Smith

Mark A. By

Joe Baca

Stephen J. Lynch

Zed Strickland

Stephanie S. Smith

Mike Doyle

Bob Anderson

Jim Davis

Gary L. Aickerman

Ben Cardin

Herb A. Wapman

Amalio Paape

George Miller

Chale E. Usher

Lane Evans

Peter Rizzi

Joe [unclear]

Sam [unclear]

Jim Moran

J. [unclear]

Chef Edwards

Alanna [unclear]

Ross L. De Luca

Shel [unclear]

James

A.

Russ Holt

Tommy Baldwin

Billy McAllen

Barbara Lee

Hilda Solis

C. A. Dutch Ruppersberg

Chapman

Tom Allen

Linda J. Sanchez

Jan Schakowsky

Luis Gohmert

Michael McCaul

Dennis J. Kucinich

Thaddeus McCotter

Bart Gordon

Chaka Fattah

Sandy Perri

Jim Oberstar

James J. Walsh

Baron Suck

W. J. Hall

Lynn Woolsey

John M. McElroy

Bart Simpson

Alvin D. Karpis

Jim V. Gutierrez

Marjorie Walsh

Elijah E. Cummings

Howard F. Berman

~~Ron D. DeSantis~~

Louise M. Shaughter

Carine Brown

Rubin Hengosa

Heidi Johnson Lee

Charles F. Bass

Dee Buchanan

Bobby H. Rush

Tom Lantos

Marlene Sidney

Carolyn B. Maloney

Arnold Tachler

Her Her

Martin O. Salvo

John A. H. Jones

Myra K. Owens

Doris O. Matsui

Jeffery

Carolyn McCarty

Dick Lasser

Ed Cox

James R. Langheim

Debbie Wass-Schultz

John Treiny

Wm. Lacy Clay

Hoyd Daggert

Anna Esch

Ed a Brandy

Arten Davis

Robert Wexler

Our Ben

Rus Simmons

Tim Ryan

JB

Michael T Michael

Allyson J. Schwartz

Steve Isaac

Shelley Bentley

Mike Shamp

Clare Dean

Li Gdn

David Scott

Frank Pallone, Jr.

Richard Boren

Michael H Michael

BO

John Lewis

Tin P

Judy Bizyett

Kalen Emanuel

Rendrick B. Mack

Les Bradley

Tom Ull

Russ Caraker

Bob Howard

D. Reichert

Tom T. Salzman

Jim McDemott

Tim Holder

Brad Smith

John Longenecker

John Longenecker

Samuel D. Bishop

Robert A. ...

Bill Powell Jr

Sammy Frank

CB Rangel

Kit Ruppell

Victor Paz-Falquez

~~Russell~~

Don Shoen

Almon H. Brown

Melvin L. Watt

The Honorable Neil Abercrombie
The Honorable Gary Ackerman
The Honorable Thomas Allen
The Honorable Robert Andrews
The Honorable Joe Baca
The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
The Honorable Charles Bass
The Honorable Xavier Becerra
The Honorable Shelley Berkley
The Honorable Howard Berman
The Honorable Judy Biggert
The Honorable Sanford Bishop
The Honorable Timothy Bishop
The Honorable Dan Boren
The Honorable Leonard Boswell
The Honorable Jeb Bradley
The Honorable Robert Brady
The Honorable Corrine Brown
The Honorable Sherrod Brown
The Honorable G.K. Butterfield
The Honorable Lois Capps
The Honorable Michael Capuano
The Honorable Ben Cardin
The Honorable Russ Carnahan
The Honorable Julia Carson
The Honorable Ed Case
The Honorable Ben Chandler
The Honorable Wm. Lacy Clay
The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver
The Honorable John Conyers
The Honorable Jim Cooper
The Honorable Joseph Crowley
The Honorable Elijah Cummings
The Honorable Arthur Davis
The Honorable Danny Davis
The Honorable Jim Davis
The Honorable Lincoln Davis
The Honorable Peter DeFazio
The Honorable Diana DeGette
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
The Honorable Lincoln Diaz-Balart
The Honorable John Dingell
The Honorable Lloyd Doggett
The Honorable Michael Doyle
The Honorable Chet Edwards
The Honorable Rahm Emanuel

The Honorable Eliot Engel
The Honorable Anna Eshoo
The Honorable Bob Etheridge
The Honorable Lane Evans
The Honorable Chaka Fattah
The Honorable Harold Ford
The Honorable Barney Frank
The Honorable Charles Gonzalez
The Honorable Bart Gordon
The Honorable Al Green
The Honorable Gene Green
The Honorable Raul Grijalva
The Honorable Luiz Gutierrez
The Honorable Alcee Hastings
The Honorable Stephanie Herseth
The Honorable Maurice Hinchey
The Honorable Ruben Hinojosa
The Honorable Tim Holden
The Honorable Rush Holt
The Honorable Michael Honda
The Honorable Kenny Hulshof
The Honorable Jay Inslee
The Honorable Steve Israel
The Honorable Jesse Jackson Jr.
The Honorable Shiela Jackson Lee
The Honorable William Jefferson
The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
The Honorable Dale Kildee
The Honorable Ron Kind
The Honorable Dennis Kucinich
The Honorable James Langevin
The Honorable Tom Lantos
The Honorable Rick Larsen
The Honorable James Leach
The Honorable Barbara Lee
The Honorable Sander Levin
The Honorable John Lewis
The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
The Honorable Stephen Lynch
The Honorable Carolyn Maloney
The Honorable Doris Matsui
The Honorable Carolyn McCarthy
The Honorable Michael McCaul
The Honorable Betty McCollum
The Honorable Thaddeus McCotter
The Honorable Jim McDermott

The Honorable Jim McGovern
The Honorable John McHugh
The Honorable Marty Meehan
The Honorable Kendrick Meek
The Honorable Michael Michaud
The Honorable Brad Miller
The Honorable George Miller
The Honorable Gwen Moore
The Honorable Jim Moran
The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
The Honorable James Oberstar
The Honorable Major Owens
The Honorable Frank Pallone
The Honorable Bill Pascrell
The Honorable Donald Payne
The Honorable Nick Rahall
The Honorable Charles Rangel
The Honorable Dave Reichert
The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
The Honorable Mike Ross
The Honorable Dutch Ruppersberger
The Honorable Bobby Rush
The Honorable Tim Ryan
The Honorable Martin Olav Sabo
The Honorable John Salazar
The Honorable Linda Sanchez
The Honorable Bernard Sanders
The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
The Honorable Adam Schiff
The Honorable Allyson Schwartz
The Honorable David Scott
The Honorable Robert Scott
The Honorable Christopher Shays
The Honorable Rob Simmons
The Honorable Ike Skelton
The Honorable Louise Slaughter
The Honorable Adam Smith
The Honorable Vic Snyder
The Honorable Hilda Solis
The Honorable Pete Stark
The Honorable Ted Strickland
The Honorable Bart Stupak
The Honorable Mike Thompson
The Honorable John Tierney
The Honorable Mark Udall

The Honorable Tom Udall
The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
The Honorable James Walsh
The Honorable Debbie Wasserman-Schultz
The Honorable Maxine Waters
The Honorable Melvin Watt
The Honorable Henry Waxman
The Honorable Anthony Weiner
The Honorable Rob Wexler
The Honorable Heather Wilson
The Honorable Lynn Woolsey