

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 4, 2004

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

The Honorable José Serrano
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Serrano:

We are writing in support of the request by the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) for \$352.4 million in the FY05 Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary Appropriations bill.

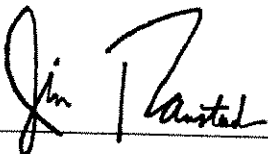
This amount represents a modest increase of \$13.6 million over the FY04 appropriation of \$338.8 million. This 4% increase is clearly needed to ensure that the doors of justice are open to those in our society who are unable to afford access to the legal system.

Legal services are in greater demand than ever, but the LSC has suffered serious reductions in federal funding in the last decade. As a result, tens of thousands of eligible persons with major legal problems are turned away because of the local programs' lack of resources.

Funds provided by the LSC are indispensable to the 143 local programs serving every county and Congressional District in the country. Local clients include the working poor, veterans, family farmers, people with disabilities and low-income military families. Their legal problems involve family relationships, domestic violence, health, employment, housing and many other basic issues. The failure to resolve these problems causes even greater hardship for them and often leads to their reliance on other government programs.

Large numbers of Americans do not have access to the legal representation they need. Without this modest increase in federal funding, many more will be denied fair representation. We urge you to fund the Legal Services Corporation at no less than \$352.4 million to help meet this urgent need.

Sincerely,





Jim Mc Tom

Michael H. Michael

Fred Strickland

Charles L. Jones

Harold Paul

Max Jans

Robert Lynch

Rodney Alexander

John

Bob A. Brady

Anna Eshoo

Hoyt D. Spt

Robert Wexler

John F. Terry

Zoe Loper

Ed Case

Shirley Jackson Lee

Sandra Levin

Bart Gordon

Ken Ken

Shed Gow

Carlye B. Maloney

Marty Mahan

Howard S. Benson

Mr Shelton.

Jerry Kaczka

Ed L.

Melvin J. Watt

Mr Fran

Donald Payne

Carl E. Wilder

Edward J. Maloney

Bill C. Fisher

But Supak

John Huggill

Arnold Nadler

Ralph M. Hall

Carl M. Minter

Marj Udall

Wm. Laug Clay

Wally

Barbara Lee

Michael Nettles

C.A. Dutch Ruppel

Bruce Deltte

Rail M. Lijalua
Ron Kind

[Signature]

John Shaker
Frank Salomon

W. Lynn

Dennis J. Kucich

Tom Allen

J. Cooper

Neil Abernombie

Chris Van Hout

Michael Gino

Tom Osborne

Chae-fah
Joe Hoefel

Jim Jun

Ed F. Cummins

Billy McCallum

Leo D. Rodriguez

John C. Cramer Jr.

J. McLaugh

Karen McCarthy

Jim McDermott

Tammy Baldwin

Billy Scott

Ross L. Per

Dick Gephardt

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2. Rodney Alexander
3. Mark Udall
4. Elijah Cummings
5. Raul Grijalva
6. Barbara Lee
7. Carolyn B. Maloney
8. Tammy Baldwin
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20. Sherrod Brown
21. Jim Turner
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36. Frank Pallone
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46. Gene Green

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59. James McGovern
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63. Bart Gordon
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65. C.A. Ruppersberger
66. Diana DeGette
67. Colin Peterson
68. Ron Kind
69. Mark Green
70. Jerrold Nadler
71. Bernard Sanders
72. Richard Gephardt