

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

July 18, 2007

Ms. Helaine M. Barnett  
President  
Legal Services Corporation  
3333 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20007

Dear Ms. Barnett:

We are writing to facilitate clarification of the eligibility of freely associated state (FAS) citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau who reside in the U.S. as legal non-immigrants to the programs of the Legal Services Corporation (LSC).

As members of Congressional committees having oversight responsibilities of the Compacts of Free Association (P.L. 99-239, P.L. 108-188 and P.L. 99-658) which govern relations between the U.S. and the three aforementioned nations, we have become aware of the 1996 LSC decision to end eligibility of FAS citizens residing in the U.S. while continuing eligibility for FAS citizens residing in their respective nations. This decision overturned many years of LSC practice. Further, this decision was inconsistent with Congressional intent in enacting the Compacts. We ask that you review that decision and restore eligibility.

We understand that the Department of Interior's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Mr. David Cohen, who has lead responsibility for coordinating U.S. assistance under the Compacts, has written to you with the Department's determination that denying benefits to FAS citizens residing in the U.S. does not reflect official U.S. policy, and the Department has asked that that the LSC consider changing the regulation to restore eligibility.

We support this determination by the Interior Department and request that you expeditiously change the regulation to allow FAS citizens residing in the United States to be eligible for LSC funded programs. We understand that this change may cause a rapid increase in the number of individuals seeking assistance from LSC grantees. We ask that the LSC make provision for this potential increase


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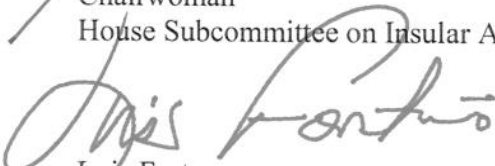
when dispersing resources to grantees in states and territories with significant populations of compact migrants.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request. If you have any questions, please contact the committee staff at 224-7865 or 226-7217.

Sincerely,



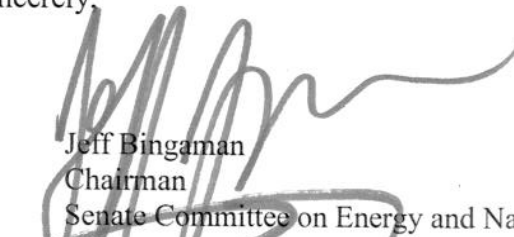
Donna M. Christensen  
Chairwoman  
House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs




Luis Fortuno  
Ranking Member  
House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs



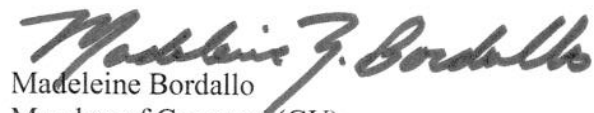
Neil Abercrombie  
Member of Congress (HI)



Jeff Bingaman  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources



Pete V. Domenici  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources



Madeleine Bordallo  
Member of Congress (GU)