



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
GOVERNOR

**DOUGLAS S. CHIN**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

For Immediate Release  
May 22, 2017

News Release 2017-54

**ATTORNEY GENERAL DOUG CHIN JOINS 32 ATTORNEYS GENERAL URGING  
CONGRESS TO OPPOSE ELIMINATION OF FUNDING FOR LEGAL SERVICES**

HONOLULU – Highlighting the need for legal services in rural and low-income communities across the country, Attorney General Doug Chin today joined a bipartisan group of 32 attorneys general in urging Congress to oppose the Trump Administration’s proposal to eliminate federal funding for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC).

**Attorney General Chin** said, “A great number of Hawaii residents live in the type of rural and low-income communities that the Legal Services Corporation serves. Eliminating federal funding for this program hurts the exact same people we should be helping. That is why I joined my colleagues in asking the Trump Administration not to do this.”

The letter, sent today to the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives Appropriations Committees, notes that for more than 40 years, under Republican and Democratic administrations, the LSC has helped residents across the nation 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 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.

The letter was signed by the Attorneys General of 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 and Washington.

Copies of both letters are attached.

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For more information, contact:

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Special Assistant to the Attorney General  
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Email: [joshua.a.wisch@hawaii.gov](mailto:joshua.a.wisch@hawaii.gov)  
Web: <http://ag.hawaii.gov>  
Twitter: @ATGHlgov

## 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 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.

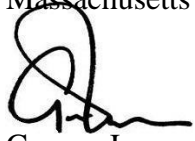
LSC funding also fosters longstanding and useful public-private partnerships between legal aid organizations and private firms and attorneys nationwide who donate their time and skills to assist low-income residents in our states.

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.

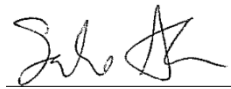
Sincerely,



Maura Healey  
Massachusetts Attorney General



George Jepsen  
Connecticut Attorney General



Talauega Eleasalo V. Ale  
American Samoa Attorney General



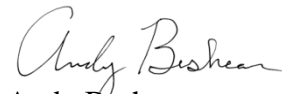
Matthew P. Denn  
Delaware Attorney General



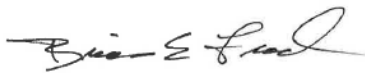
Doug Chin  
Hawaii Attorney General



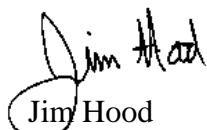
Lisa Madigan  
Illinois Attorney General



Andy Beshear  
Kentucky Attorney General



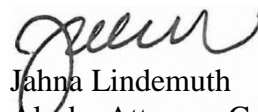
Brian Frosh  
Maryland Attorney General



Jim Hood  
Mississippi Attorney General



Cynthia Coffman  
Colorado Attorney General



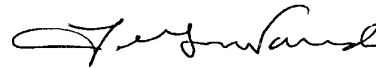
Jahnna Lindemuth  
Alaska Attorney General



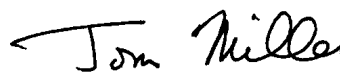
Xavier Becerra  
California Attorney General



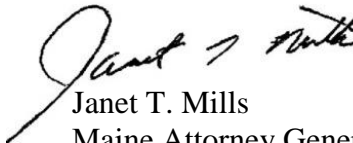
Karl Racine  
District of Columbia Attorney General



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


  
Adam Paul Laxalt  
Nevada Attorney General

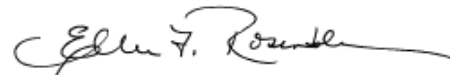
  
Gordon J. MacDonald  
New Hampshire Attorney General


  
Hector Balderas  
New Mexico Attorney General

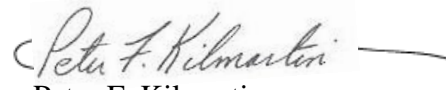
  
Eric T. Schneiderman  
New York Attorney General


  
Josh Stein  
North Carolina Attorney General


  
Edward Manibusan  
Northern Mariana Islands Attorney General

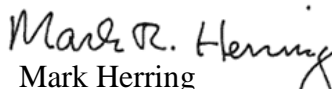
  
Ellen F. Rosenblum  
Oregon Attorney General

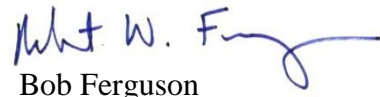
  
Josh Shapiro  
Pennsylvania Attorney General

  
Peter F. Kilmartin  
Rhode Island Attorney General

  
Marty Jackley  
South Dakota Attorney General

  
T. J. Donoyan  
Vermont Attorney General

  
Mark Herring  
Virginia Attorney General

  
Bob Ferguson  
Washington Attorney General

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

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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,  
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2354 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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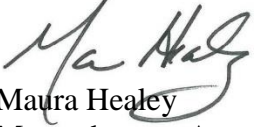
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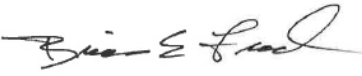
  
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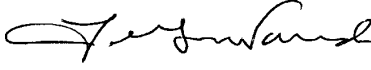
  
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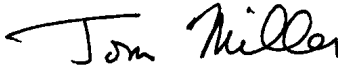
  
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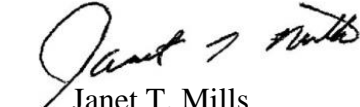
  
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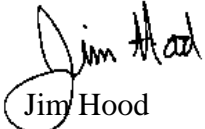
  
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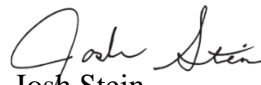
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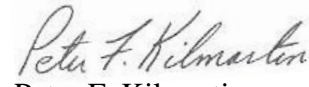
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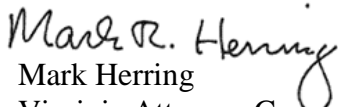
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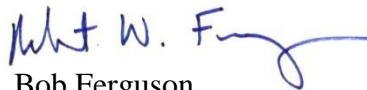
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