

June 17, 2025

To: All Members of Congress

The undersigned are general counsel and chief legal officers from 104 of America's largest corporations. We write to urge Congress to preserve and strengthen families and communities by funding the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) as you consider appropriations for FY2026.

As business leaders, we appreciate and support the need for a responsible budget and for setting priorities to ensure one. Consistent with that view, we also support efforts to strengthen the economic viability and workforce of the communities in which we operate in America. Unaddressed legal issues resulting from a lack of access to legal resources lead to economic instability which negatively affects families and the business community.

Civil legal aid provided through LSC is critical to ensure the stability of families and communities. LSC distributes funding to 130 grantees, which cover every county in America. LSC's grantees help homeowners and renters avoid wrongful eviction and foreclosure; help seniors and veterans avoid fraud and abuse; help families escape domestic violence; and help resolve barriers to employment. These grantees often are the only legal aid program for many people in our country's most rural areas and southern states. Federal investment in legal aid accessibility is essential to the stability of communities in these areas.

LSC's grantees directly serve 2.3 million Americans annually. Tens of millions more access resources curated by these grantees, including online legal tools, websites and self-help resources. These include, among others:

- Active-duty military personnel, as well as veterans returning from wars;
- Domestic violence victims;
- Families in danger of losing their homes;
- Families searching for stability due to the fentanyl epidemic;
- Farmers and small business owners;
- Older Americans and victims of abuse and fraud; and
- Victims of natural disasters.

But with more than one in six people across the country eligible for these services, LSC's grantees are forced to turn away more than half of the people seeking legal services.<sup>1</sup> Total discretionary spending has increased at a rate more than five times as high as LSC's appropriations.

LSC was founded by Congress in 1974 and is headed by a board of directors whose 11 members are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. LSC's national framework forms the basic structure that ensures Americans in every corner of the country have access to civil legal services, which plays a critical role in laying the foundation for a safe, stable and thriving society.

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<sup>1</sup> Legal Services Corporation. 2022. The Justice Gap: The Unmet Civil Legal Needs of Low-income Americans. Prepared by Mary Slosa, Slosar Research, LLC. Available at <https://justicegap.lsc.gov>.

LSC is the only entity with the ability to ensure that legal assistance is available to people in every zip code.

We believe that sufficiently funding the Legal Services Corporation is a uniquely important priority for Congress and urge you to do so. This funding strengthens the economic stability of American communities and the effectiveness of the legal systems on which they depend.

Sincerely,

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