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April 22, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chair
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Grace Meng
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, U.S.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole, Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member DeLauro, and
Ranking Member Meng:

The undersigned state attorneys general write to express our strong bipartisan support for the Legal Services Corporation (“LSC”) and to request continued funding in the Fiscal Year 2026 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. Congressional investment in the LSC is essential to ensure that our legal system works for all Americans, not just those who can readily afford lawyers.

As you know, Congress established the LSC in 1974 for a purpose that is just as noble and necessary today as it was fifty years ago: “providing legal assistance to those who face an economic barrier to adequate legal

counsel will serve best the ends of justice and assist in improving opportunities for low-income persons.”

In each of our states, our most under-resourced and vulnerable citizens struggle to meet significant civil legal needs. The LSC has remained an effective and efficient partner in addressing these challenges through its network of 130 independent legal aid organizations, which operate over 900 offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. The LSC distributes almost 95 percent of its federal appropriations directly to these organizations, and their programs assist millions of hardworking Americans every year in every congressional district across the United States. These programs help veterans secure rightful benefits, support disaster victims rebuilding their lives, assist domestic violence survivors seeking safety, and protect seniors from scams and financial exploitation. Some recent examples of the LSC’s indispensable work include:

- ***Supporting American Veterans and Military Families.*** LSC grantees assisted more than 34,000 veterans and their families last year with significant legal challenges, including securing rightful benefits, preventing homelessness, and removing arbitrary employment barriers. Through the Veterans Task Force, the LSC developed comprehensive strategies to better serve the 1.6 million veterans who qualify for assistance.
- ***Responding to Natural Disasters.*** When a disaster strikes—whether floods, wildfires, hurricanes, or tornadoes—LSC partnered organizations provide essential legal services to help communities rebuild. In 2024 alone, more than 20.8 million Americans in disaster-stricken areas were eligible for LSC-funded services. These programs help survivors navigate multiple paths to get them back on their feet like filing insurance claims, appealing FEMA denials, and replacing vital documents.
- ***Preserving Rural Communities.*** Twenty percent of Americans live in rural areas where only two percent of attorneys practice. The LSC’s Rural Justice Task Force addresses this disparity, ensuring that the ten million rural Americans eligible for legal aid are not denied justice simply based on their ZIP code. Without investment in the LSC, many hardworking rural families would have no access to legal assistance when facing life-altering civil legal problems.

Simply stated, the LSC is at the frontline for protecting and expanding access to justice throughout America, and it has demonstrated prudent stewardship of taxpayer dollars in providing critical civil legal help to millions of our fellow Americans and their families—help they may not otherwise receive.

We recognize the difficult fiscal choices facing Congress and your Committees. As you weigh these important budget priorities for our Nation, we urge your consideration of the LSC. We are confident that funding the LSC represents a sound investment in the foundational American principle of equal justice under the law.

Sincerely,



Phil Weiser
Colorado Attorney General



Jeff Jackson
North Carolina Attorney General



Dave Sunday
Pennsylvania Attorney General



Jonathan Skrmetti
Tennessee Attorney General



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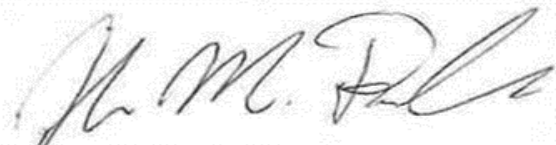
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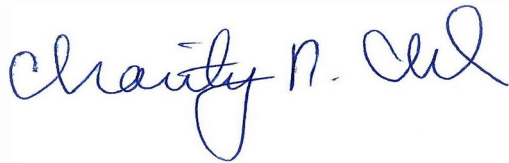
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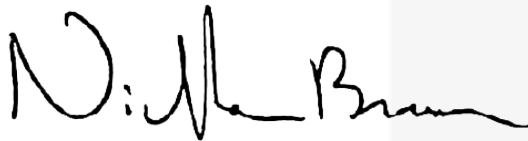
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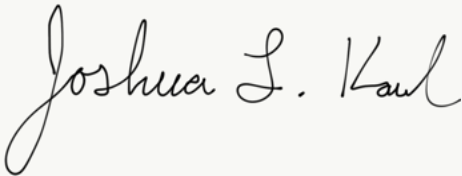
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