



LOUISVILLE BAR
ASSOCIATION

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FULL FUNDING
FOR THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION**

WHEREAS the Trump administration's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2018 calls for elimination of all federal appropriations to the Legal Services Corporation (LSC);

WHEREAS the LSC has enjoyed bipartisan support in Congress since its inception in 1974 because it embodies principles – including fairness and equal access to justice – that define us as Americans;

WHEREAS appropriations to the LSC comprise only 1/10,000th of the federal budget and multiple audits show that the LSC awards 93.7 percent of its total budget in grants to 133 organizations with more than 800 offices nationwide;

WHEREAS the LSC, with a presence in every congressional district, is the single largest provider of civil legal aid for low-income Americans in the nation, helping veterans secure housing, protecting seniors from scams, delivering legal services to rural areas, protecting victims of domestic abuse, representing parties in guardianship proceedings and helping disaster survivors get back on their feet;

WHEREAS more than 30 cost-benefit studies show that LSC grantees offer a strong return on investment, saving taxpayer dollars by solving problems that would cost society significantly more if not addressed;

WHEREAS elimination of funding for the four LSC-funded organizations in Kentucky would severely impact citizens' access to justice, effectively ensuring that they would not receive representation for their legal needs;

WHEREAS the Louisville Legal Aid Society – which serves Jefferson County and fourteen surrounding counties – is the oldest of Kentucky's LSC-funded organizations, having been founded in 1921 by several groups, including the Louisville Bar Association, with a mission to "pursue justice for people in poverty," which it has successfully accomplished for nearly a century;

WHEREAS elimination of funding for the LSC would also eliminate the administrative framework which currently enables the private bar to offer millions of dollars in pro bono services to help the most vulnerable citizens needing guidance through our legal system; and

WHEREAS our federal government was founded on the concept of justice for all and funding for equal justice is a federal duty not to be transferred as an unfunded mandate to state and local governments;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisville Bar Association, by and through its Board of Directors, joins numerous other local and state bar associations around the country in calling upon Congress not to eliminate or reduce funding to the LSC but to instead appropriate funds sufficient to enable the LSC to continue fulfilling its vital role in providing equal access to justice.

ADOPTED this 27th of March, 2017.

Amanda G. Main

Amanda G. Main, President
Louisville Bar Association

The following members of the Board of Directors of the Louisville Bar Association hereby affirm their support for the foregoing resolution:

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