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June 14, 2005

Subject: H.R. 2862, Vote NO on Proposed Amendment using LSC funding as offset

Dear Representative:

During the floor debate on H.R. 2862, the Science, Justice, Judiciary and Commerce funding bill, an amendment (#16) was offered by Congressman Cliff Stearns to increase funding by \$10 million for justice assistance programs under the Department of Justice by cutting the funding for the Legal Services Corporation by \$10 million. Subcommittee Chairman Frank Wolf and Ranking Member Alan Mollohan opposed the amendment. The amendment failed on a voice vote, but a recorded vote was requested.

The American Bar Association, in cooperation with state and local bar associations nationwide and representing more than 400,000 individual lawyers, urges you to vote "No" on this or any other amendment that might cut LSC funding.

More than 160 Representatives from both sides of the aisle wrote the Subcommittee in support of the bipartisan LSC Board of Director's request for a necessary \$33 million *increase* for FY 2006. Chair Frank Strickland of Georgia and Vice Chair Lillian BeVier of Virginia lead the Bush Administration-appointed Board, which unanimously approved this request for an increase in funding. The ABA also strongly supported the LSC Board's funding request. Copies of both the ABA letter and the bipartisan House letter to Messrs. Wolf and Mollohan are posted on the ABA website at <http://www.abanet.org/poladv/new.html>.

While the Appropriations Committee did not include the LSC Board's requested increase because of the federal budget situation, we are grateful for the Subcommittee's effort to make sure that LSC's FY 2006 funding was not cut. Therefore, we urge you to vote NO on the amendment to prevent any further erosion in the much-needed services provided to low-income families in your district.

Letter to House of Representatives  
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Please contact Julie M. Strandlie, the ABA's Director of Grassroots Operations/  
Legislative Counsel, at 202 662-1764 or [jstrandlie@staff.abanet.org](mailto:jstrandlie@staff.abanet.org) should you have  
any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert D. Evans".

Robert D. Evans

cc:

Executive Directors, State and Local Bar Associations  
Chief Justices, State Supreme Courts