June 19, 2006

The Honorable James T. Walsh
U.S. House of Representatives
2369 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Walsh:

On Tuesday, June 20, the Appropriations Committee will consider the Science, State, Justice, and Commerce (SSJC) funding bill. Representative David Obey (D-WI), ranking member on the Appropriations Committee, plans to offer an amendment to restore $25 million in funding for the Legal Services Corporation.

The American Bar Association urges you to support the Obey LSC amendment during tomorrow's markup.

As you know, the Subcommittee cut LSC's funding by $13 million from the FY 06 level of $326 million to $313 million. The Obey amendment would merely bring LSC's funding back up to the $338 million LSC received in FY 2003. The offsets are from non-controversial administrative accounts from a cross section of other agencies funded in the bill.

There is widespread, bipartisan support and an overwhelming need for adequate funding for LSC. More than 160 Members of the House of Representatives wrote the SSJC Subcommittee to request a funding increase for LSC. In addition, the entire Oregon Delegation submitted its own letter, and other Members sent individual letters. Copies of the Delahunt/Ramstad bipartisan letter and ABA President Michael S. Greco's letter to the Subcommittee in support of LSC funding are attached.

Thank you very much for your consideration. Please contact Julie Strandlie at (202) 662-1764 or jstrandlie@staff.abanet.org in the ABA's Governmental Affairs Office should you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Evans

Note: A personalized copy of this letter was sent to all Members of the House Appropriations Committee.