July 20, 2017

The Honorable John Culberson  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Culberson:

On behalf of the more than 400,000 members of the American Bar Association (ABA), I write to express our gratitude for your comments at the full committee markup about the importance of the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) and its work and funding. Your remarks were most encouraging and have been noted by the bar and legal services community throughout the Nation.

As you said, the work of the Legal Services Corporation is “vitally important” and “particularly for battered women who need help in court.” As you know, LSC is also critical for low income veterans, rural residents, seniors, and survivors of federally declared disasters—in total aiding nearly two million people each year in households all across America.

Money spent for legal aid is money well spent—over 30 studies all show substantial return on monies expended, for example, to defend against wrongful conduct and help families remain in the safety of a home or help individuals to be able to secure or maintain their independence and ability to make a living. The federal role in providing legal services to the poor across our Nation is vital as you so effectively indicated.

Thank you, again, for your leadership in this noble cause to achieve “justice for all” as our pledge promises our people. Please feel free to contact me or Tom Susman in the ABA Governmental Affairs Office at (202) 662-1765 with any questions or ways we can be of help to you in these efforts.

Sincerely,

Linda Klein