

# STATEMENT OF VIRGINIA'S STATEWIDE BAR ASSOCIATIONS OPPOSING ELIMINATION OF FEDERAL FUNDING FOR LEGAL AID

The undersigned Virginia's statewide bar associations stand united in strong opposition to the budget proposal presented by President Trump's administration calling for elimination of funding for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) and as a result, Virginia's civil legal aid programs. LSC provides civil legal aid to millions of Americans and more than one million Virginians qualify for its services.


Legal aid lawyers and the thousands of private volunteer lawyers in support of legal aid work, provide vital services, often on a moment's notice, to the most vulnerable and underserved in our communities in civil matters before the court. Examples of their work include services for victims and survivors of domestic violence; veterans, who often find themselves struggling with economic and mental health issues after returning home from combat; people displaced by disasters; the elderly; and people with disabilities who are too often financially exploited and abused.

LSC has had bipartisan support in Congress since it was created in 1974 reflecting America's commitment to the democratic principles of equal access to justice and fairness. The Commonwealth of Virginia has also supported legal aid with state funding since 1982.


The undersigned call on every member of the Virginia congressional delegation to act on behalf of those who need meaningful access to justice by rejecting any proposal to eliminate or significantly reduce legal aid funding.




Mikhail N. Lopez, President  
Hispanic Bar Association



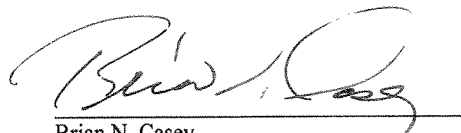
Jane M. Reynolds, President  
Old Dominion Bar Association



David S. Mercer, President,  
The Virginia Bar Association



Michael W. Robinson, President,  
Virginia State Bar



Brian N. Casey  
President, Virginia Association of Defense  
Attorneys



Joan C. McKenna, President,  
Virginia Women Attorneys Association



R. Lee Livingston, President,  
Virginia Trial Lawyers Association