

July 14, 2010

The Honorable Alan Mollohan
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
Room H-310 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Mollohan,

As organizations committed to supporting the needs of legal services clients, we want to thank you for your support for equal justice in your recent mark of the FY11 CJS appropriations bill.

As you noted in your opening remarks, if passed, the repeal of the restriction currently barring Legal Services Corporation-funded clients from participating in class action lawsuits would go a long way toward more efficiently addressing issues like predatory lending and wrongful eviction, and other systemic issues with which low-income Americans struggle daily in this recession. Additionally, your decision to increase LSC's total funding to \$440 million will no doubt allow more clients to be assisted when facing critical civil legal issues and is a much needed boost in light of declines in other funding for civil legal aid providers.

We are looking forward to supporting your mark, along with any language repealing LSC restrictions that may originate in the Senate, as this year's appropriations process continues.

Again, thank you for your commitment to this issue.

Sincerely,

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)

Brennan Center for Justice at NYU
School of Law

Center for Law and Social Policy
(CLASP)

International Union, United Automobile,
Aerospace & Agricultural Implement
Workers of America (UAW)

The Leadership Conference on Civil and
Human Rights

Legal Aid Association of California

National Legal Aid & Defender
Association

OMB Watch

Public Interest Clearinghouse

Service Employees International Union
(SEIU)

Sargent Shriver National Center on
Poverty Law