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Media Contacts: press@oag.state.md.us 410-576-7009

Attorney General Frosh Joins Coalition Urging Congress to Fund Legal Services Corporation

Letters Request Robust Funding to Expand Access to Legal Services for Millions of Americans

BALTIMORE, MD (**April 29, 2021**) – Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh has joined a bipartisan coalition of 41 attorneys general submitting <u>letters to the U.S. House and U.S. Senate</u> Committees on Appropriations to request funding for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) in the Fiscal Year 2022 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

LSC is a nonprofit legal services organization established by Congress in 1974 to promote equal access to justice for all Americans by funding independent nonprofit legal aid programs across the county. LSC provides millions of dollars in funding to legal aid organizations that serve and support low-income individuals, veterans and military families, seniors, survivors of domestic violence, victims of natural disasters, and individuals with disabilities. LSC distributes funding to over 130 independent nonprofit legal aid programs in every state, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories.

In Maryland, LSC funding supports Maryland Legal Aid, a non-profit law firm that provides free civil legal services to low-income individuals. Maryland Legal Aid provides these services statewide through 12 office locations. Special populations served by the organization include children in Child in Need of Assistance (CINA) proceedings, victims of domestic violence, migrant farmworkers, veterans, and nursing home and assisted living residents.

"The COVID-19 pandemic made an already difficult to navigate civil justice system even more complicated and inaccessible," said Attorney General Frosh. "More than ever, our nonprofit legal service providers need federal funding to help Marylanders facing significant hardships such as evictions, access to public benefits, and medical and consumer debt."

In addition to Maryland, today's letter was signed by attorneys general of Alaska, American Samoa, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North

Carolina, North Dakota, Northern Mariana Islands, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virgin Islands, Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2021/042921.pdf