

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20500

DATE: 05/23/96

TO: BRENDA COSTELLO

FROM: Staff Secretary

8 MAY 7 48:33

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LOWENSTEIN, SANDLER, KOHL, FISHER & BOYLAN

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

COUNSELLORS AT LAW

65 LIVINGSTON AVENUE

ROSELAND, NEW JERSEY

07068-1791

TELEPHONE (201) 992-8700

FACSIMILE (201) 992-5620

May 3, 1996

Douglas S. Eakeley

By facsimile and regular mail

Hon. Bill Clinton
President
The United States of America
The White House
Washington, DC 20500-2000

Dear Mr. President:

Re: Legal Services Corporation

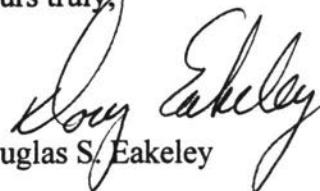
I write to express my keen disappointment with the final FY 1996 appropriation for the Legal Services Corporation. Not only did we sustain a one-third cut in our appropriation, from \$415 million (pre-rescission) to \$278 million: that reduction was accompanied by a host of onerous new restrictions which impair local programs' ability to represent their clients effectively, while causing other funding sources to dry up. As the New York Times put it in its recent editorial, LSC is the chief "loser" in this year's appropriation process.

But my concern goes beyond the outcome of last week's negotiations. We are now on what the House leadership calls the "glide plan" to total elimination of the Legal Services Corporation, and anticipate another 50% cut for FY '97 pursuant to the Budget Resolution to zero out LSC by FY 1998. Our failure to move away from that "glide plan" in the negotiations (much less to secure the \$340 million that the Senate had voted to appropriate) has sent an unfortunate message to friend and foe alike, discouraging the former and encouraging the latter.

May 3, 1996

We need to discuss this dire situation. I will be in Washington from Sunday, May 19th through Wednesday, May 22nd. Can you squeeze me into your schedule, sometime, somehow?

Yours truly,



Douglas S. Eakeley

DSE:cw
Ms. Nancy Hernreich