



**Congressman Jim Jordan (R-OH), RSC Chairman**  
**Congressman Connie Mack (R-FL), RSC Repeal Task Force Chairman**

## **Repeal the Legal Services Corporation Act**

September 14, 2011

**Background:** The Legal Services Corporation (LSC) was created by Congress in 1974. The program is intended to provide free, legal assistance to the poor in civil, non-criminal matters. According to CRS, the Legal Services Corporation funded 137 legal services programs in 918 offices.

In August, Congressman Austin Scott (R-GA) introduced H.R. 2774, to repeal the Legal Services Corporation Act. By repealing the Legal Services Corporation Act, it would thereby eliminate the Legal Services Corporation.

### **What We Know:**

- **What the Bill Will Do:** Repeal the Legal Services Corporation
- **One-Year Cost of Subsidy:** \$405 million in FY 2011
- **Why this is a Wasteful Subsidy:** The Corporation has not merely continued to offer services duplicative of those offered by states, localities, bar associations, and private organizations, but has engaged in lobbying, advocacy of political causes, and litigation against the federal government. LSC's taxpayer funding activities have been for various left-wing causes that center on the advancement of big-government priorities as opposed to representing the legal interests of the poor. Senator Phil Gramm explained his opposition to the program in 1995 as follows: "They're being advocates for the existing welfare bureaucracy, and while they may have a right to do it, they don't have a right to do it with taxpayers' money."

A [Washington Times](#) analysis also points out many examples of wasteful Legal Services Corporation spending: "... a decorative natural-stone wall, no-bid contracts for consultants, alcohol for a congressional party and more than 100 casino hotel rooms that were never occupied..." In previous years, according to the same analysis, taxpayer dollars have been used by this program on "limousines, first-class airfare, and \$14 Death by Chocolate pastries for its executives." Additionally, this program has not been reauthorized since 1980.

Repealing the Legal Services Corporation would take taxpayers off the hook for the lavish expenses and advocacy of this politically biased left-wing group.

**MEMBER ACTION ITEM:** All RSC Members are encouraged to support H.R. 2774. Please contact Jessica Robertson at [Jessica.Robertson@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jessica.Robertson@mail.house.gov) to cosponsor this legislation.

**Outside Support:** H.R. 2774 is supported by [American for Limited Government](#) and by [Heritage Action for America](#).

If you would like to participate in the RSC Repeal Task Force, please [Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov](mailto:Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov).

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