

AUSTIN SCOTT
EIGHTH DISTRICT, GEORGIA

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

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AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Join Rep. Scott in Protecting Small Business Owners

January 22, 2012

Dear Colleague,

The Legal Services Corporation (LSC) is using taxpayer dollars to bring frivolous lawsuits against small business owners and farmers. This is both harmful to job growth and a prime example of wasteful spending. That is why I have introduced H.R. 350. I hope you will consider cosponsoring this important bill.

When LSC was created in 1974, its purpose was to provide free, legal assistance to the poor in civil, non-criminal matters. Yet, today, we are at a point where Congress must look at everything and ask, "Is this absolutely necessary?" LSC has not been authorized since 1980 and received \$348 million in FY 2012. Currently, LSC provides less than 6% of indigent civil legal services. Over 94% of these services are now conducted by state and local governments, bar associations, and pro bono lawyers. However, this government program has been used to sue American business owners and farmers with their own tax dollars while under the guise of assisting the poor.

Americans for Limited Government Bill Wilson released the following statement on the legislation. "If we cannot defund the services we don't even need and are non-essential, the budget will never be balanced... To date, the [LSC] does nothing but file nuisance lawsuits and kill jobs. We don't need to fund it."

Heritage for Action CEO, Mike Needham, also supports the legislation saying, "LSC's use of taxpayer funds has often been dubious; promoting the advancement of big government priorities as opposed to representing the legal interests of the poor... Fortunately, conservatives in Congress are fighting to end the LSC... Congressman Austin Scott (R-GA) introduced H.R. 350, a bill to repeal the Legal Services Corporation."

Hardworking American taxpayers deserve to have the money they pay to go towards programs that support economic growth and job creation. At a time of record deficits and climbing debt, we must carefully examine where tax dollars are going. By eliminating federal funding for the LSC, this duplicative and unnecessary program can be taken off the taxpayers' payroll.

If you would like to cosponsor this important bill, please contact Chase Cannon in my office at Chase.Cannon@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Austin Scott
Member of Congress

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