PROTECT LEGAL SERVICES FUNDING!

Dear Councilmember-

As a D.C. resident, I strongly support the D.C. Access to Justice Commission and urge the D.C. Council to protect funding for legal services programs funded through the Access to Justice program. The Access to Justice Commission was created in 2005 to address low and moderate income residents' unmet need for civil legal services.

Legal services provide D.C. residents – particularly impoverished, disabled, and senior residents - access to a lawyer when their most fundamental needs are at risk. Every day, legal services lawyers keep people in their homes; ensure children have access to health care; assist domestic violence victims; help secure disability benefits; and protect low-income workers.

Given the current economic climate, the demand for legal services has grown by 20%. At the same time, funding for legal services is shrinking dramatically. More than 25% of funding for legal services was cut in the last year alone, which meant the loss of attorneys and an alarming reduction in the services available for the District's most vulnerable residents. We stand with our fellow residents and urge you to restore legal services funding today!

<u>Protect Legal Services Funding!</u>

NAME	PHONE	EMAIL	ADDRESS	ZIP CODE

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