



Eleven Dupont Circle NW  
Second Floor  
Washington, DC 20036  
[www.allianceforjustice.org](http://www.allianceforjustice.org)

January 2, 2009

Dear Mr. Van Horne:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on potential reauthorization legislation for LSC. While supportive of reauthorization, our comments are limited to a narrow issue: the private money restriction. Alliance for Justice (AFJ) believes organizations should be able to lobby, conduct nonpartisan voter registration or get-out-the-vote drives, or engage in other advocacy efforts with their private funds, even if they receive funding from LSC.

Alliance for Justice is a national association of environmental, civil rights, mental health, women's, children's and consumer advocacy organizations. Since its inception in 1979, AFJ has worked to advance the cause of justice for all Americans, strengthen the public interest community's ability to influence public policy, and foster the next generation of advocates. Through its Nonprofit Advocacy Project and Foundation Advocacy Initiative, AFJ works to strengthen the voice of the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors in important public policy debates by giving tax-exempt organizations a better understanding of the laws that govern their participation in the policy process. The advocacy information and training Alliance for Justice provides to the nonprofit sector encourages greater civic participation in our democratic system of government by groups speaking on behalf of underrepresented communities.

Alliance for Justice believes the funding restriction on private funds for LSC grantees should be lifted because it:

- Represents a fundamental challenge to the rights and independence of the philanthropic and nonprofit community. It interferes with choices of state, local and private charitable donors about how to spend their money.
- Is unnecessary—since 1984, federal grant rules have prohibited federal grantees from using federal funds, either directly or indirectly, for a variety of advocacy related activities and costs.
- Sets a dangerous precedent that, if expanded, would limit the use of private funding for a wide variety of other federal grantees.
- Threatens the viability of important public-private partnerships. Government cannot rely on governmental funding as a proxy to control how nonprofits spend their money in public-private partnerships.
- Treats LSC grantees to a higher standard than other federal grantees.

In addition to participating in the litigation over the LSC onerous restrictions as an amici, we have joined the Brennan Center, AFL-CIO, ACLU, the Center for Law and Social Policy lobbying for removal of the funding restriction. Attached is a one-page fact sheet we distributed as part of those lobbying visits.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

Abby Levine  
Deputy Director for Advocacy Programs

**PRESIDENT**  
**NAN ARON**  
**CHAIR**  
**CLAY HILES**

**MEMBERS**  
ADA Watch  
AIDS Action  
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund  
Eazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
Business and Professional People  
for the Public Interest  
Center for Children's Law and Policy  
Center for Constitutional Rights  
Center for Digital Democracy  
Center for Law and Social Policy  
Center for Law in the Public Interest  
Center for Reproductive Rights  
Center for Science in the Public Interest  
Children's Defense Fund  
Comprehensive Health Education Foundation  
Conservation Campaign  
Consumers Union  
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund  
Drug Policy Alliance  
Earthjustice  
Education Law Center  
Equal Rights Advocates  
Food Research & Action Center  
Harmon, Curran, Spisberg & Eisenberg  
Human Rights Campaign Foundation  
Institute for Public Representation  
Justice Policy Institute  
Juvenile Law Center  
Lambda Legal  
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law  
League of Conservation Voters Education Fund  
Legal Aid Society of New York  
Legal Aid Society-Employment Law Center  
Legal Momentum  
Methodist Healthcare Ministries  
Mexican American Legal Defense  
and Educational Fund  
NARAL Pro-Choice America Foundation  
National Abortion Federation  
National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers  
National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture  
National Center for Law and Economic Justice  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Center for Youth Law  
National Center on Poverty Law  
National Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home Reform  
National Council for Research on Women  
National Council of Nonprofit Associations  
National Education Association  
National Employment Lawyers Association  
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Assoc.  
National Immigration Forum  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty  
National Lawyers Guild  
National Legal Aid & Defender Association  
National Low Income Housing Coalition  
National Mental Health Association  
National Partnership for Women and Families  
National Senior Citizens Law Center  
National Veterans Legal Services Program  
National Women's Law Center  
National Youth Advocacy Coalition  
Native American Rights Fund  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest  
One Connecticut  
Physicians for Human Rights  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Public Advocates  
Service Employees International Union  
Seton Hall School of Law  
Center for Social Justice  
States United to Prevent Gun Violence  
The Sierra Club Foundation  
The Wilderness Society  
Tides Center  
University of Pennsylvania Law School  
Public Service Program  
Violence Policy Center  
Women's Law Project