



For Immediate Release

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***ENZI, GRASSLEY, CANNON PLEASSED WITH STEPS TAKEN BY LSC BOARD
TO ADDRESS CONCERNS RAISED BY SIX-MONTH INVESTIGATION***

Washington, D.C. – Following a six month investigation into the Board of Directors and President of the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY), Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and Congressman Chris Cannon (R-UT), Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law, today released a letter saying they were pleased with steps the agency has taken to address concerns regarding the operations and activities of LSC but urged that more has to be done to focus on the important mission upon which it was founded.

“We are pleased with the steps taken by LSC to, among other things, improve transparency in decision making; improving the relationship between LSC leadership and the LSC Inspector General; and, curtailing extravagant travel and meeting expenses that reflected poorly on an organization whose mission is to ensure equal access to justice for Americans who otherwise would be unable to afford legal representation,” the Senators and Congressman wrote. “However, important questions remain unanswered and we will continue to conduct careful oversight into those matters.”

The HELP Committee, in conjunction with the Senate Finance Committee and the House Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law of the Committee on the Judiciary, raised serious questions about the judgment of LSC’s officers and Board of Directors and the ability of LSC’s senior management to appropriately administer tax payer dollars.

The investigation uncovered a discouraging record of LSC leaders undermining the competitive process for the awarding of LSC grants; circumventing restrictions on how LSC grantees can use tax payer dollars; and using those same taxpayer dollars to treat themselves to 5-star hotels and \$1,000 dinners.

Enzi, Grassley, and Cannon have also directed the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to evaluate the effectiveness of LSC’s leadership and administration and to

insure the implementation of the changes made to LSC's operation and activities as a result of the investigation.

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