

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

March 19, 2010

The Honorable Alan Mollohan  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science and Related Agencies  
H-310, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Wolf  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Mollohan and Ranking Member Wolf:

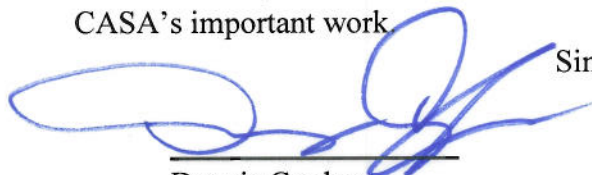
We respectfully urge you to provide \$15 million for the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program in the 2011 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. This is \$5 million above the President's request, but equal to the 2010 enacted level. Maintaining at least level funding is critical to the more than 240,000 children in the child welfare system with appointed CASAs to advocate on their behalf.

The President's 2011 budget provides only \$10 million for the national CASA program, a reduction of 33 percent from the 2010 enacted level. This cut would result in a loss of 3,500 citizen volunteers and a disruption of services for more than 12,000 abused children, at a time when two-thirds of the children in the child welfare system are still in need of advocates.

In 2008 alone, 70,000 citizens donated an estimated 5.8 million hours to making a lifelong difference in the lives of abused and neglected children. Their advocacy is a cost-effective method to reducing the number of children in long-term foster care by 50 percent. Given the economic challenges faced by families across the country and deep cuts to state social services programs, CASA volunteers are needed more than ever. Cutting the program's spending will assuredly have a significant negative impact on the outcome of children in our child welfare system. That is why we urge you to at least maintain CASA funding at the 2010 enacted level of \$15 million.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your continued support of CASA's important work.

Sincerely,



Dennis Cardoza  
Member of Congress



Geoff Davis  
Member of Congress

Pete Stark  
Member of Congress

John Conyers  
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress

Bobby Scott  
Member of Congress

Dave Loebsack  
Member of Congress

Bob Filner  
Member of Congress

Michael Castle  
Member of Congress

George Miller  
Member of Congress

Mike Ross  
Member of Congress

Andre Carson  
Member of Congress

Shelley Berkley  
Member of Congress

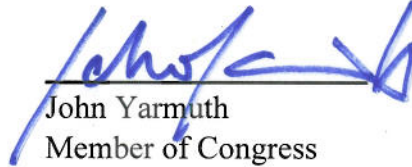
Danny Davis  
Member of Congress

Stephanie Herseth-Sandlin  
Member of Congress

Raúl Grijalva  
Member of Congress



James Oberstar  
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress



Tammy Baldwin  
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



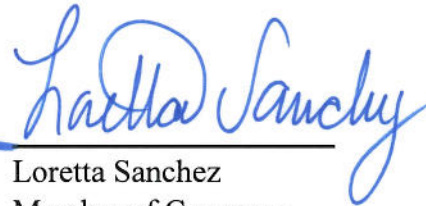
Debbie Halvorson  
Member of Congress



Gabrielle Giffords  
Member of Congress



Alcee Hastings  
Member of Congress



Loretta Sanchez  
Member of Congress



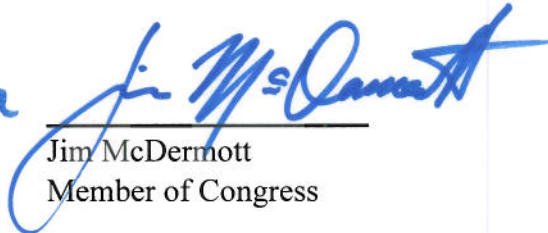
Todd Platts  
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver  
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter  
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress