Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2015

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As the Subcommittee begins the arduous task of preparing the FY 2016 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill, we respectfully request that the Committee pay particular attention to funding for the Community Services Block Grant. We recognize and thank the Committee for its longstanding support for CSBG funding. We also recognize the incredible demand placed upon the Committee for program funding. With these difficulties in mind, we respectfully request funding for CSBG be no lower than the FY 2015 level of $674 million.

As the Committee's past support indicates the Community Services Block Grant program is a unique and valuable resource that enables local communities to address poverty and economic insecurity in innovative ways. This simply would not be possible absent CSBG funding.

Nationwide, more than 900 Community Action Agencies use their CSBG funding to allow local elected officials, the private sector and representatives of the low-income community in creating unique, locally driven responses to circumstances surrounding poverty in their particular community.

Each CSBG dollar leverages at least $2.30 in private, non-governmental funds. And as highlighted in the Administration's FY 2016 budget justification, the new organizational standards for federal, state and local participants in the CSBG program will ensure a level of accountability and performance that should be a model for other programs. Annually, some 16 million of our most vulnerable citizens receive a hand-up through their CSBG funded agency.

We believe strongly that CSBG funding gives our local communities a valuable weapon in the fight to reduce poverty, one of our nation's most daunting economic challenges. We thank you for your leadership and consideration of this request on behalf of the Community Services Block Grant.

Sincerely,

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Member of Congress

MIKE FITZPATRICK
Member of Congress

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