



May 2, 2016

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
Committee on Ways and Means  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sander M. Levin  
Committee on Ways and Means  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Levin:

Colorado Counties, Inc. strongly opposes the elimination of the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) under H.R. 4724.

Many counties depend on SSBG to serve vulnerable children and adults within their communities, a funding source that is directly passed through to counties. SSBG can be used for nearly 30 different types of services, but the most common use is for adult protective services (APS). In fact, it is currently the only federal program authorized for APS besides the unfunded Elder Justice Act (enacted as part of the Affordable Care Act), and there is no alternative state or county APS funding stream sufficient to replace the loss of SSBG.

Child protective services are the second most common use of SSBG funds. In FY 2009, the last year for which data is available, SSBG served 22 million individuals nationwide, 47 percent of whom were children. Services provided to these vulnerable populations – children and seniors – aim to prevent and remedy abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Colorado receives roughly \$26 million in SSBG funding and directs \$23.8 million to child welfare services and \$2 million for adult protective services. The elimination of SSBG funds to Colorado would result in the loss of approximately 365 child welfare supervisors, caseworkers and case aides. It would also equate to a reduction of 20 county adult protective services workers. This loss would result in an increase in open cases per caseworker from 32:1 to 41:1, a 28% increase.

Accordingly, Colorado Counties, Inc. is deeply concerned that the loss of SSBG funds would lead to the elimination or sharp reduction of the services we provide vulnerable children and their families and at-risk adults. We hope you will take these factors into consideration and thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Keith Goodwin  
CCI President  
Otero County Commissioner

cc: Colorado Congressional Delegation



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