

SCOTT P. BROWN
MASSACHUSETTS



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510

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May 13, 2011

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Ms. D. Margaret Drury
Office of the City Clerk
City of Cambridge
City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Ms. Drury,

Thank you for contacting me on behalf of the Cambridge City Council regarding funding for the Community Service Block Grant program. As always, I value the input of the City Council and appreciate hearing from the City. Please share this letter with the Council.

As you may know, the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) was established by the Community Services Block Grant Act of 1981 to provide states and Indian tribes with funds to combat poverty and assist low income individuals. Organizations receiving CSBG funds must use the funds to aid in employment, education, housing, nutrition, emergency health services, and workforce development programs.

Last year, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2010, Congress provided approximately \$700 million for the CSBG program, with Massachusetts receiving more than \$17.3 million in the form of state block grants. Additionally, Massachusetts received more than \$24 million in CSBG funding through the federal "stimulus" program. More recently, Congress has been working to resolve funding issues for FY 2011. In April, Congress passed and the President signed into law the FY 2011 Continuing Appropriations Act (H.R. 1473), which funds the government through September, and reduces this year's funding for the CSBG program by \$20 million. As for FY 2012, President Obama's proposed budget requests \$350 million for the CSBG program, which is a reduction of \$350 million from FY 2010 levels.

During this historic economic crisis, with millions of Americans out of work and struggling to make ends meet, I understand the importance of the CSBG program, which provides services to many citizens in need. I have met with countless city and local

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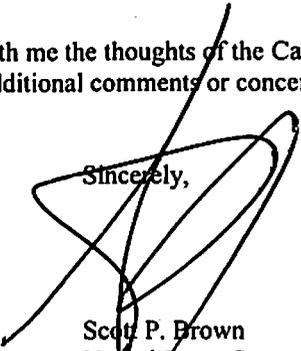


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officials, like yourselves, to learn about how the CSBG program helps their communities. However, because of the debts and deficits we face, there are virtually no areas of the budget that are completely immune from reductions. As Congress moves forward with the annual budget and appropriations process, I will be sure to keep your concerns in mind regarding the CSBG program.

Again, thank you for sharing with me the thoughts of the Cambridge City Council. Should the City Council have any additional comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Scott P. Brown
United States Senator