National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition

LIHEAP Action Request Letter

(Use your agency/company logo or name)

Congresswoman/Congressman (Name)

(Their Address)

Dear Senator/Representative (Insert Name):

I am writing today to urge you and your Congressional colleagues to protect and support an increase in funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in FY 2019. LIHEAP serves a vital, life-saving role protecting millions of families from America's most violent temperature extremes.

LIHEAP is an efficient, effective program. It helps your most vulnerable constituents, including seniors, veterans, many living on fixed incomes, families with young children, and those with disabilities.

LIHEAP is not an entitlement and does not receive increased funding as the need increases. Congress must appropriate funding annually. While states set eligibility guidelines, federal statute sets the income maximum at 150 percent of the federal poverty guideline or 60 percent of the state's median income. Most LIHEAP recipients fall well below the maximum thresholds and only one in five LIHEAP-eligible households receive assistance with current funding.

FY 2009 and FY 2015, LIHEAP's appropriation was cut by more than one-third. Because of these cuts, states have been forced to reduce the number of households served, cut benefits, or both. These reductions place people in dangerous situations, including having to choose between heat and food during the bitter northern winters, or air conditioning and medicine during the dangerously hot and humid summers.

We hope we can expect your support for LIHEAP, which is critical to states and their charitable partners to serve the growing energy needs of America's most vulnerable households.

We respectfully ask you to protect LIHEAP funding and continue to appropriate increased funds for this critical program.

Please consider supporting our request and feel free to contact me if you need more information.

Sincerely,

Name

Organization

Address