Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2024

The Honorable Robert Aderholt Chairman U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies 266 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 The Honorable Rosa DeLauro Ranking Member U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies 2413 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro,

We are writing to request that you prioritize the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in your Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 appropriations bill by including the highest level of funding possible for this program that provides critical support to our most vulnerable citizens.

LIHEAP helps some of the neediest families in the country with their energy bills by providing them with vital assistance during both the cold winter and hot summer months. According to the US Department of Health and Human Services, at least 70 percent of LIHEAP households report at least one household member who is age five or younger, age 60 or older, or who has a disability. For these households, LIHEAP funding has been a lifeline during challenging economic times. Access to affordable home energy is not a luxury – it is essential for the health and safety of families.

Supplemental funding for utility assistance provided by recent emergency stimulus bills has helped address arrearages and expanded access to cooling assistance and weatherization. However, these temporary supplemental funds have now been expended and are no longer available to address the ongoing energy needs of millions of eligible households still struggling with the rising cost of monthly expenses. Living at the lowest levels of poverty, recipients of these funds are forced to make choices every day between food, medicine, or utilities. Robust funding for LIHEAP in FY 2025 will ensure these income-constrained households do not once again fall through the cracks.

We understand the discretionary budget challenges the Committee will be facing in FY 2025. However, LIHEAP is chronically underfunded. In recent years, the program has only had funds to serve one out of six eligible households. Even with supplemental emergency funds, the program has not be able to reach all households in need. As prices have risen for everything from a gallon of milk to a gallon of gasoline, many income-constrained families and seniors will have fewer resources available to meet their basic needs.

As you finalize your FY 2025 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we ask that you take into account the tremendous and growing need for LIHEAP. We urge you to prioritize this program and maximize funding. Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

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