

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 25, 2022

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair, Subcommittee on Labor
Health and Human Services, Education and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor
Health and Human Services, Education and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Murray and Ranking Member Blunt:

We write to thank you for the Subcommittee's longstanding support of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and to request that you provide the highest level of funding possible for this vital program in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023. This request is particularly important because rising energy prices are making it more difficult for low-income Americans to heat and cool their homes. To help states respond to further unexpected fluctuations in the supply and price of energy, we also urge you to consider the inclusion of contingency funding.

LIHEAP is the main federal program that helps low-income households and seniors pay their energy bills, providing vital assistance during both the cold winter and hot summer months. Access to affordable home energy is a matter of health and safety for many low-income households, children, and seniors. LIHEAP assistance is an indispensable lifeline, helping to ensure that recipients do not have to choose between paying their energy bills and affording other necessities like food and medicine.

While we recognize the competing priorities you must balance, the number of households eligible for LIHEAP assistance continues to exceed available funding. Meanwhile, the average cost of heating oil is more than 70 percent higher than last year and natural gas is nearly 35 percent higher, according to data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration. As these prices go up, the purchasing power of LIHEAP's appropriations goes down.

The National Energy Assistance Directors' Association estimates that the purchasing power of LIHEAP's FY 2022 appropriation fell by \$1.4 billion due to rising energy prices during the course of the winter heating season. This leaves states in the position of making tough choices about the amount of assistance they will provide and the number of people they will serve with the limited funding available. Ensuring that LIHEAP is well-funded will help guarantee that the program has the resources it needs to help as many eligible, low-income households and seniors as possible.

As you begin the difficult work of crafting the FY 2023 Labor Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we urge you to continue your

strong support of vulnerable Americans by providing the highest funding level possible for LIHEAP. Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this request.

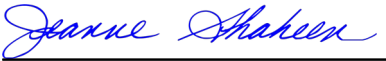
Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator



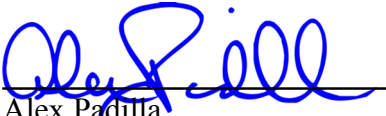
Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



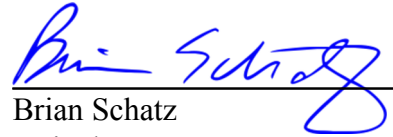
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



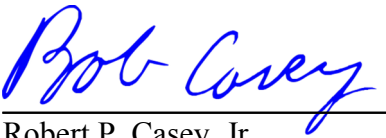
Tina Smith
United States Senator



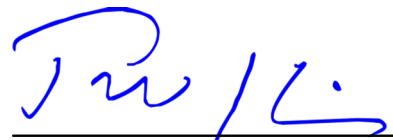
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



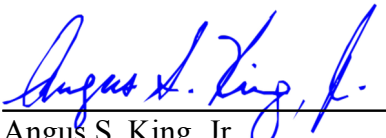
Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



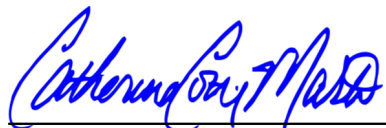
Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



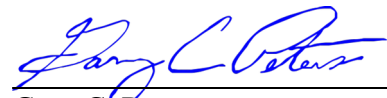
Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



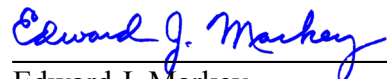
John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



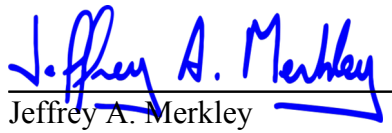
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



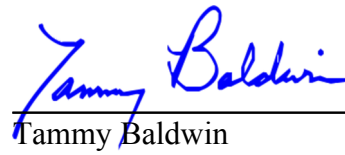
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Raphael G. Warnock
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator




Christopher A. Coons
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Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



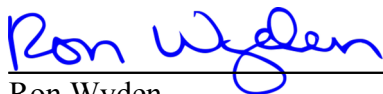
Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
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Robert Menendez
United States Senator