

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 14, 2024

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

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

Dear Chair Baldwin and Ranking Member Capito:

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) 2025. This request is particularly important because high 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, LIHEAP has become even more critical as demand for the program increases. Indeed, the National Energy Assistance Directors' Association (NEADA) found that the number of households receiving LIHEAP during the most recent winter season was up by an estimated 1.3 million, from 4.9 million to 6.2 million, the largest one-year increase since 2009. In addition, according to the U.S. Census Department's March 2024 Household Pulse Survey, the number of families unable to pay their home energy bill at least once in the last 12 months increased from 21.3% in March 2023 to 23.5% in March 2024. For families with young children, the rate of increase was even greater, growing from 28.4% to 33.1%.

Insufficient funding 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 2025 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we urge you continue to 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,



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Jack Reed  
United States Senator



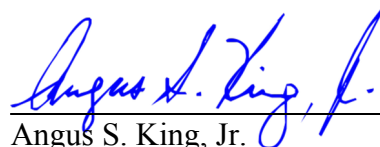
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Lisa Murkowski  
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Tammy Duckworth  
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Cory A. Booker  
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Chris Van Hollen  
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Mazie K. Hirono  
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Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



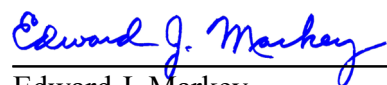
Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



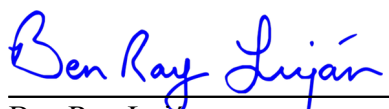
Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



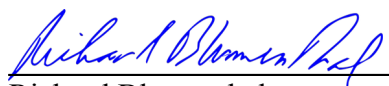
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Kirsten Gillibrand  
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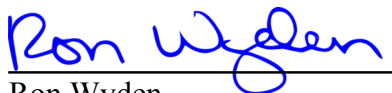
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Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



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Amy Klobuchar  
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Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



Jon Tester  
United States Senator

*Ben Cardin*

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Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator