

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 23, 2025

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

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

Dear Chair Capito and Ranking Member Baldwin:

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) 2026. This funding is particularly important because high energy prices are making it more difficult for low-income Americans to heat and cool their homes.

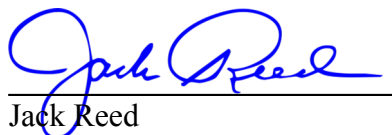
LIHEAP is the main federal program that helps low-income households and seniors pay their energy bills, providing vital assistance during both the cold winter and hot summer months. Access to affordable home energy is a matter of health and safety for many low-income households, children, and seniors. 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 one out of six American families are currently behind on their home energy bills and the total amount these families owe their utilities is approximately \$21 billion – the highest level since 2021. In addition, a recent U.S. Census survey revealed that over one third of families earning less than \$50,000 a year were unable to pay at least one energy bill over the course of the past year.

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 2026 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,



Jack Reed
United States Senator



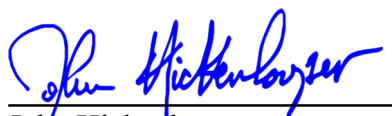
Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



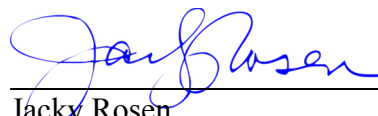
Christopher S. Murphy
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Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



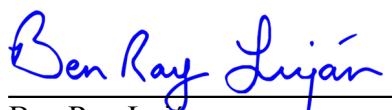
Jacky Rosen
U.S. Senator



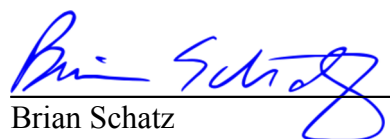
Peter Welch
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Mark R. Warner
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Christopher A. Coons
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Maria Cantwell
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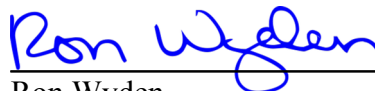
Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
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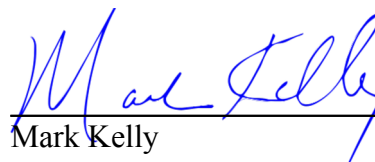
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



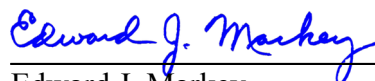
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



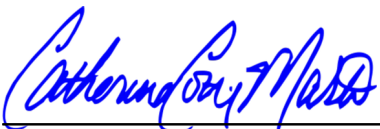
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United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
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Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Andy Kim
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
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