neuac
NATIONAL ENERGY & UTILITY AFFORDABILITY COALITION

May 13, 2025

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education
United States House of Representatives
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education
United States House of Representatives
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

The National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition (NEUAC) is writing in support of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2026. LIHEAP, established by the administration of President Ronald Regan in 1981, has protected the health and safety of vulnerable households for more than 40 years by helping residents maintain access to energy and fuel. It is critical that this cornerstone safety net program remain in place to address the ongoing and emergent needs for heating and cooling assistance in the United States.

LIHEAP is an efficient, targeted block grant that maximizes state and local control. It delivers crisis assistance by applying the benefit directly to utility bills, making it a highly effective and trustworthy expenditure of taxpayer dollars. In FY 2023, nearly 6 million households received LIHEAP assistance, and the program restored power or prevented disconnection 2.76 million times.[i] Your support for the program will ensure that households in your districts at the lowest levels of poverty, seniors, and other vulnerable populations receive the critical assistance they need.

Energy costs are not optional. Many hardworking, American families are faced with impossible choices between keeping the heat or electric on and affording food, medications, or rent. LIHEAP not only helps prevent these kinds of hardships, but also reduces the risk of health emergencies, helps seniors remain in their own homes, and promotes long-term financial stability.

LIHEAP helps meet the need to drive down energy costs for consumers and puts American families first, aligning with the current Administration's priorities. The program keeps costs lower for all ratepayers, benefitting not just those eligible for the program but every American utility customer.

Beyond providing bill assistance, LIHEAP supports weatherization and energy efficiency measures, helping reduce long-term energy use and utility costs. This makes the program not just a humanitarian imperative but a wise economic investment that benefits both families and local economies.

As the committee begins to compose the FY 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, NEUAC urges you to prioritize LIHEAP funding. Ensuring energy security for all Americans is a responsibility we cannot afford to ignore.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Katrina Metzler, Executive Director
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[i] https://liheap-fy23-data-dashboard-hhs-acf.hub.arcgis.com/