neuac
NATIONAL ENERGY & UTILITY AFFORDABILITY COALITION

May 13, 2025

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, M.D.
Chairman
Senate Committee on Health,
Education, Labor & Pensions
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health,
Education, Labor & Pensions
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cassidy and Ranking Member Sanders:

The National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition (NEUAC) is writing to express our concerns regarding elimination of key staff at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), which has statutory authority for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). LIHEAP 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 adequately staffed at the federal level to protect program operations and oversight.

In FY 2023, nearly 6 million households received LIHEAP assistance, and the program restored power or prevented disconnection 2.76 million times.[i] This information was made available via a dashboard maintained by the very staff that were recently eliminated at the Department of HHS. Their work was imperative to the transparency and efficiency of LIHEAP and to communicate the program's impact through data. Staff were responsible not only for maintaining the existing databases of program information, but submitting the Reports to Congress that are critical to this committee in documenting the evolution of LIHEAP and its performance over time.

NEUAC would like to express gratitude for the recent release of the remaining FY 2025 LIHEAP funds. At the same time, the delay and uncertainty surrounding program oversight created challenges in planning for the upcoming cooling season and introduced strain across the network. These difficulties highlight the importance of timely communication and consistent oversight by the Department of HHS. For LIHEAP to continue to operate effectively and meet the needs of vulnerable households, appropriate federal program infrastructure is essential.

NEUAC urges the authorizing committee to ensure strong oversight of LIHEAP and maintain a reliable framework to support program continuity and accountability.

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/