United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 31, 2013

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

As state agencies prepare their Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) programs for the winter, we respectfully request that the Department of Health and Human Services release LIHEAP funds as quickly and at as high of a level as possible under the current continuing resolution.

LIHEAP is the main federal program that helps low-income households and seniors with their energy bills, providing critical assistance during the cold winter and hot summer months. This funding has been an indispensable lifeline during challenging economic times, helping to ensure that recipients do not have to choose between paying their energy bills and paying for other necessities like food or medicine. On average low-income families and seniors spend a higher proportion of their income on energy, and for many states, October marks the start of the heating season, creating an additional constraint on these household budgets.

As the relevant state agencies begin to provide assistance for this winter, it is critical that they have the resources to assist low-income households and seniors as soon as possible. Therefore, we request that you quickly release LIHEAP funds and at as high of a level as possible in order to allow states and low-income households to prepare for the upcoming season.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on this critical program, and thank you for your attention to our concerns and those of our constituents.

Sincerely,

Jack Reed
United States Senator

Susan Collins
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

Edward Markey
United States Senator

Kelly Ayotte
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Mark Begich
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Carl Levin
United States Senator

Mary Landrieu
United States Senator

Robert Menendez
United States Senator

Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

Patrick J. Leahy
United States Senator

Mark Pryor
United States Senator

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

Tim Johnson
United States Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Patty Murray
United States Senator

John D. Rockefeller IV
United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Jon Tester
United States Senator

Ben Cardin
United States Senator

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

Angus King
United States Senator

Richard Durbin
United States Senator

Jeff Merkley
United States Senator

Al Franken
United States Senator

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator