

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

August 4, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Leahy, Chairwoman DeLauro, Vice Chairman Shelby, and Ranking Member Granger:

We appreciate the Committee's longstanding support for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which serves as a lifeline for millions of seniors and low-income families across the country. In light of skyrocketing home energy bills and additional increases expected for this winter, we urge the Committee to provide emergency supplemental funding for this critical program.

The Committee's efforts to increase the annual appropriation for LIHEAP for Fiscal Year 2023 represents an important commitment to restoring funding to the levels reached over a decade ago. However, because of the run-up in natural gas, heating oil, and electricity prices, we are deeply concerned that we will not meet the needs of low-income families this winter.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index recently reported alarming increases across all sources of home energy fuel over the past 12 months. Natural gas is up 38.4 percent from this time last year – the largest such increase since the period ending in October 2005. Electricity is up 13.7 percent – the largest such increase since the period ending in April 2006 – and heating oil is up 98.5 percent.


Currently, an estimated 20 million families are behind on their utility bills, totaling more than \$18 billion in arrearages. Without increased LIHEAP funding, this trend will only continue, straining household budgets even further. Increased energy costs will inevitably force many vulnerable families to make heartbreaking decisions between heating their homes, putting food on their tables, and buying the medications they need to survive.

In a normal year, LIHEAP plays a critical role in offsetting burdensome heating and cooling costs that strain the budgets of financially vulnerable Americans. However, this winter, LIHEAP will be more important than ever in helping families afford their energy bills. We urge

you to help states prepare for a particularly tough winter ahead by appropriating emergency supplemental funding for this critical program.

Thank you for your attention to this request and your support of the LIHEAP program.

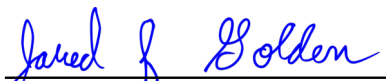
Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



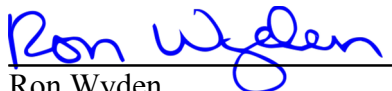
Jared Golden
Member of Congress



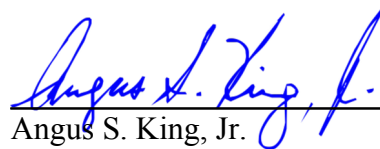
Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress



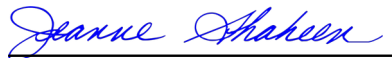
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



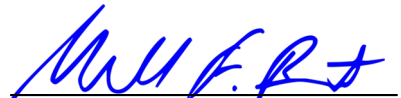
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



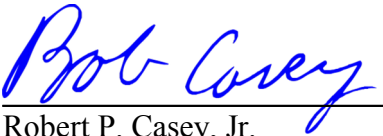
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



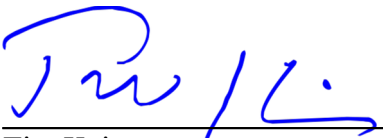
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



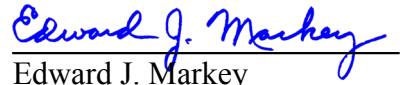
Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



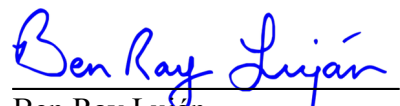
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



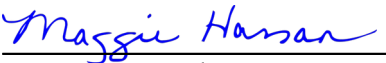
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



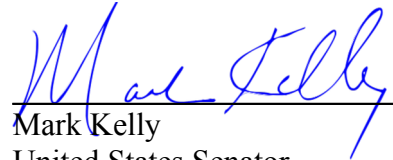
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

/s/ Sheila Jackson Lee

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



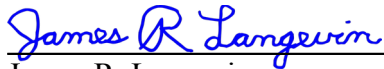
Andy Kim
Member of Congress

/s/ Rashida Tlaib

Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



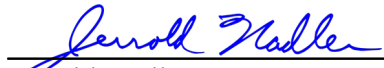
Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



James R. Langevin
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



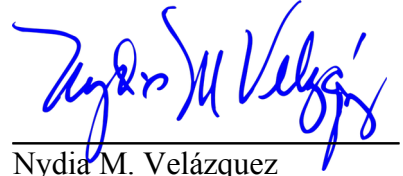
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



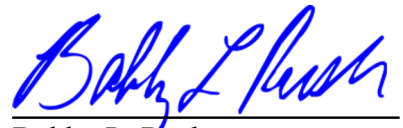
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

/s/ Carolyn B. Maloney

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Conor Lamb
Member of Congress



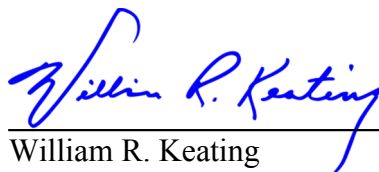
Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

/s/ Debbie Dingell

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress