

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 14, 2020

The Honorable Alex M. Azar II
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Secretary Azar:

With passage of the continuing resolution, we write to urge the Department of Health and Human Services to release Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds as quickly and at the highest level possible.

As the main federal program that helps low-income households and seniors with their energy bills, LIHEAP provides critical assistance during the cold winter and hot summer months. October marks the start of the heating season for many states and low-income families and seniors will be facing additional strains on their household budgets. In addition, millions of low-income families, including seniors, are facing new and severe financial hardship due to the coronavirus, making the assistance provided through LIHEAP more important than ever.

As state agencies work to prepare their LIHEAP programs for the coming winter, it is crucial that they have the resources they need to assist low-income households and seniors as soon as possible, especially in light of the current health crisis. As such, we request that you quickly release LIHEAP funds at the highest level possible to allow states to prepare for the upcoming season, so that low-income households do not have to choose between paying for heat and affording other necessities like food or medicine.

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



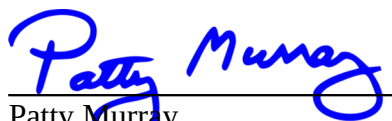
Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy
United States Senator

/s/ Lisa A. Murkowski

Lisa A. Murkowski
United States Senator



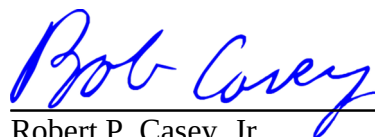
Patty Murray
United States Senator

/s/ John Hoeven

John Hoeven
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



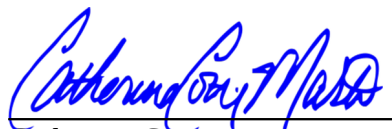
Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



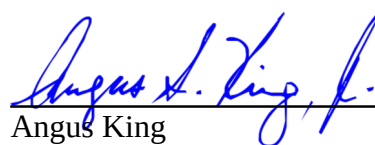
Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

/s/ Dianne Feinstein

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Angus King
United States Senator

/s/ Sheldon Whitehouse

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

/s/ Debbie Stabenow

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

/s/ Richard Blumenthal

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

/s/ Maria Cantwell

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

/s/ Cory A. Booker

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

/s/ Tammy Baldwin

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet

Michael Bennet
United States Senator

/s/ Kyrsten Sinema

Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Dick Durbin

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

Chris Coons

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

/s/ Gary C. Peters

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

/s/ Ron Wyden

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Mark R. Warner

Mark R. Warner
United States Senator

Jacky Rosen

Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

Joe Manchin III

Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

/s/ Christopher S. Murphy

Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

Ben Cardin

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

/s/ Doug Jones

Doug Jones
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator