

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 2, 2022

The Honorable Shalanda Young
Director
White House Office of Management and Budget
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Director Young:


We appreciate the Administration's strong support for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and your work to include \$1 billion in emergency funding for LIHEAP in the Continuing Resolution. As high energy prices continue to make it difficult for low-income Americans to afford their energy bills, we urge you to include the highest possible level of funding for LIHEAP in the Administration's budget request for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024. To help states respond to further fluctuations in the supply and price of energy, we also urge you to consider the inclusion of contingency funding.

As you know, LIHEAP is the main federal program that helps low-income households and seniors pay their energy bills, providing vital assistance during both the cold winter and hot summer months. Access to affordable home energy is a matter of health and safety for many low-income households, children, and seniors. LIHEAP assistance is an indispensable lifeline, helping to ensure that recipients do not have to choose between paying their energy bills and affording other necessities like food and medicine.


While we recognize the competing priorities you must balance, the number of households eligible for LIHEAP assistance continues to exceed available funding. Meanwhile, the average cost of heating oil is nearly 70 percent higher than last year and natural gas is 20 percent higher, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. As these prices go up, the purchasing power of LIHEAP's appropriations goes down. This leaves states in the position of making tough choices about the amount of assistance they will provide and the number of people they will serve with the limited funding available. Ensuring that LIHEAP is well-funded will help guarantee that the program has the resources it needs to help as many eligible, low-income households and seniors as possible.

As you craft the Administration's FY 2024 budget request, we urge you continue to your strong support of vulnerable Americans by providing the highest funding level possible for LIHEAP. Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this request.

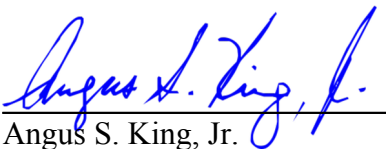
Sincerely,




Jack Reed
United States Senator



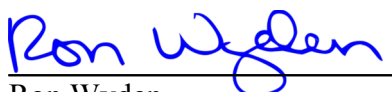
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United States Senator



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Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
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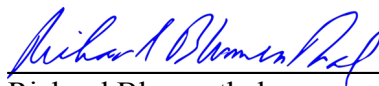
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



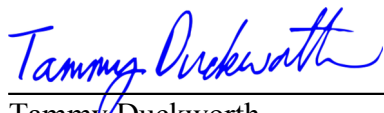
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Tammy Duckworth
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Margaret Wood Hassan
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Robert P. Casey, Jr.
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Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



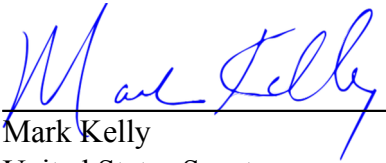
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



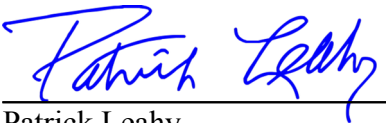
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Mark Kelly
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Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator