

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 22, 2013

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services and Education
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services and Education
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kingston and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As the Subcommittee develops its FY2014 appropriations bill, we respectfully urge you to prioritize commitment for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), a vital safety net for our nation's lowest-income households. **We write to urge you to fund the LIHEAP program at its last authorized level of \$5.1 billion in FY2014.**

As you know, LIHEAP is the main federal program that helps low-income households, veterans, and seniors with their energy bills, providing vital and temporary assistance during both the cold winter and hot summer months. This funding remains a lifeline to millions of Americans as the unemployment rate and energy costs remain high. LIHEAP helps to ensure that people do not have to choose between paying their energy bills and paying for food or medicine. Moreover, the funds invested in LIHEAP help to stimulate the economy, generating \$1.13 in economic activity for every dollar in benefits paid, according to economists Mark Zandi and Alan S. Blinder.

Although funds have been able to provide help to millions of households in every state across the country, we believe that providing funding at the authorized level is necessary to more effectively meet the critical needs of our constituents, especially as energy costs remain high, the economy is still rebounding, and record numbers of families continue to turn to LIHEAP for assistance. Furthermore, recent lower funding levels have impaired the program's ability to meet growing demand. Adjusted for inflation using 2012 dollars, appropriations for LIHEAP declined nearly \$770 million, or 18 percent, between the program's first-year and FY2012. The National Energy Assistance Director's Association (NEADA) reports that LIHEAP provided heating assistance to 6.9 million families and cooling assistance to one million families last year, a decrease of 13.4 and 9 percent, respectively, from the previous year.

Furthermore, funding LIHEAP at lower levels has forced millions of Americans to receive significantly lower levels of support during these difficult times. The average

national household grant for home energy assistance has been cut from \$475 in FY2011 to \$405 in FY2012, a 15 percent cut. According to the U.S. Energy Information and Administration's (EIA) March 2013 Short-Term Energy Outlook, household expenditures this winter for heating oil and natural gas are projected to increase by 19 percent and 15 percent, respectively. While this constrains middle-income households, it disproportionately affects low-income households, many of whom are seniors and on fixed-incomes.

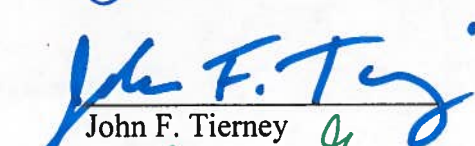

While we understand the difficult fiscal decisions we must make in Washington, LIHEAP provides critical assistance to millions of families across the country to help ensure that people do not have to choose between paying their energy bills and paying for food or medicine. Continuing lower levels of funding for LIHEAP will have a devastating impact on millions of American families already suffering during the economic downturn. We urge the Appropriators to provide funding at this program's congressionally authorized level in the FY2014 appropriations bill.

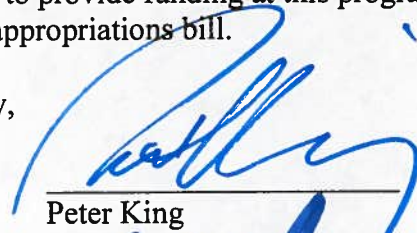
Sincerely,


Edward J. Markey


James P. McGovern


Peter Welch


John F. Tierney

Gene Green

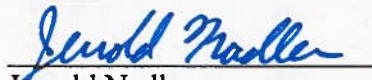

Peter King

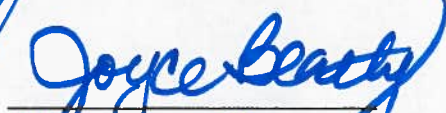

Chris Gibson

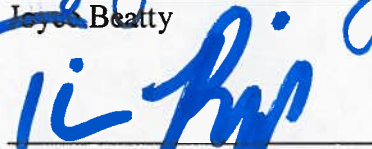

Michael Grimm


Lou Barletta


Michael G. Fitzpatrick


Jerrold Nadler

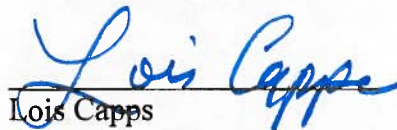

Joyce Beatty


Tim Bishop

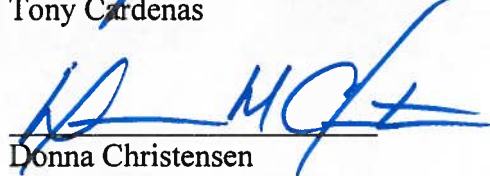

Suzanne Bonamici


Robert Brady


Cheri Bustos


Lois Capps


Tony Cardenas


Donna Christensen


Judy Chu

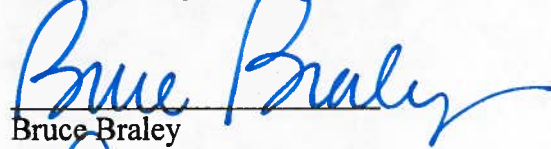

Yvette Clarke


Ron Barber

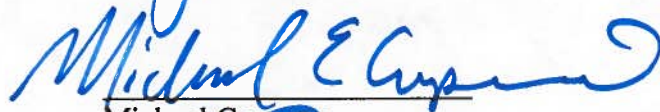

Corrine Brown

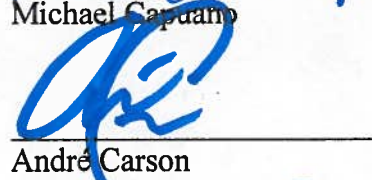

Earl Blumenauer


Matt Cartwright


Bruce Braley


Joaquin Castro


Michael Capuano


André Carson


Emanuel Cleaver, II


David Cicilline

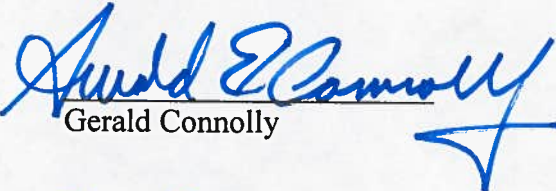

Wm. Lacy Clay



Jim Costa



Steve Cohen



Gerald Connolly



John Conyers



Eni Faleomavaega



Joe Courtney



Joe Crowley



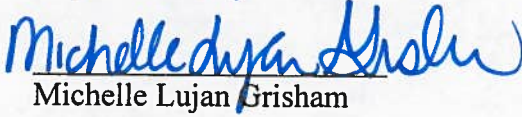
Elijah E. Cummings



Danny K. Davis



Jim Gerlach



Michelle Lujan Grisham



Diana DeGette



Frank LoBiondo



Betty McCollum



Theodore E. Deutch



John Dingell



Gregory W. Meeks



Mike Doyle



Tammy Duckworth



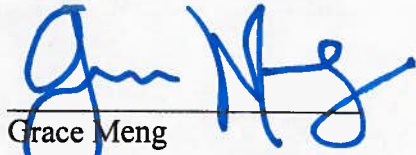
Donna Edwards

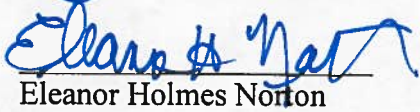


Keith Ellison




Eliot Engel


Grace Meng

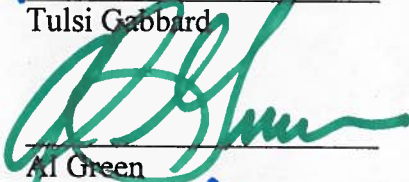

Eleanor Holmes Norton

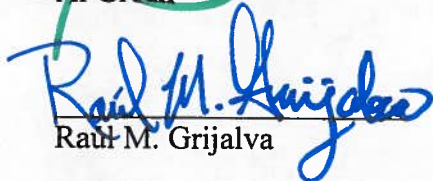
Wihiki


Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan

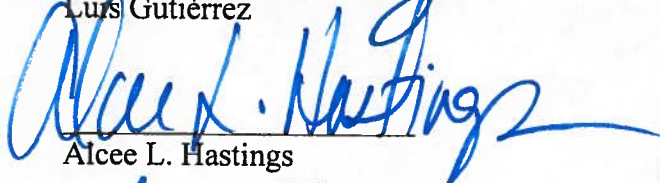

Filemon Vela

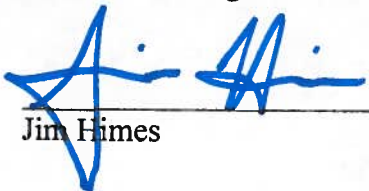

Tulsi Gabbard

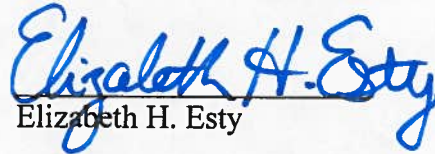

Al Green


Raul M. Grijalva


Luis Gutiérrez

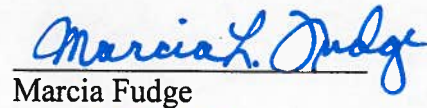

Alcee L. Hastings

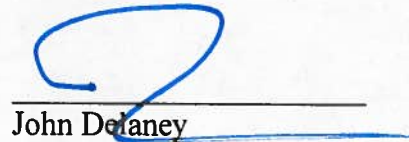

Jim Himes


Elizabeth H. Esty


Lucille Roybal-Allard


Bill Foster


Marcia Fudge

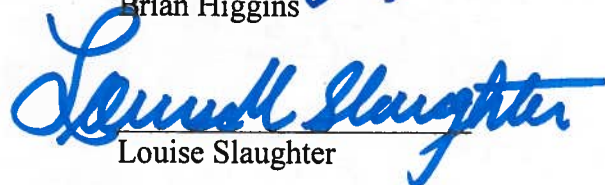

John Delaney


Chris Van Hollen

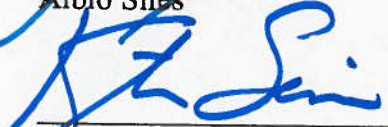

Paul Tonko


Mark Takano


Brian Higgins

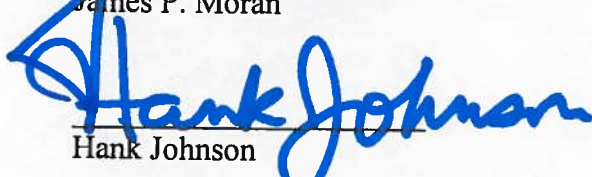

Louise Slaughter

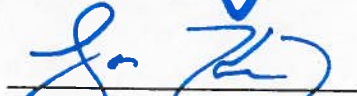

Albio Sires

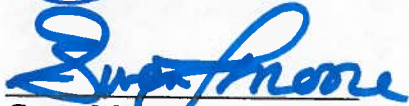

Kyrsten Sinema


Steve Israel


James P. Moran

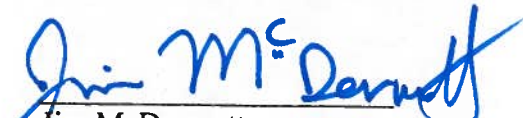

Hank Johnson

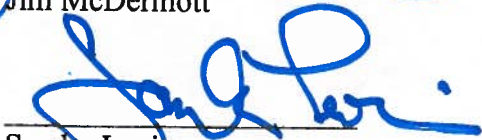

Joe Kennedy



Gwen Moore

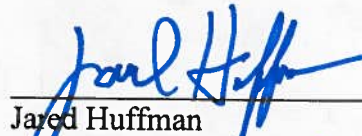

Gloria Negrete McLeod



Ann McLane Kuster

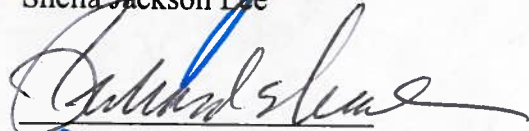

Jim McDermott

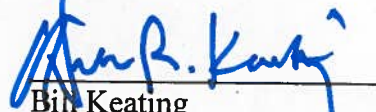

Sander Levin


Rush Holt



Jared Huffman

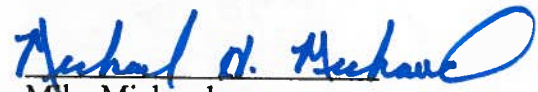

Sheila Jackson Lee


Richard Neal


Bill Keating



Dan Kildee


Ron Kind


Mike Michaud

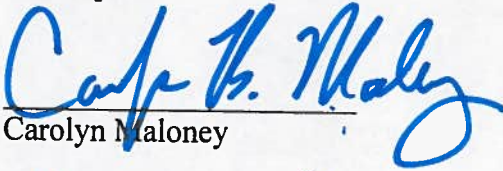

Jim Langevin


Carolyn McCarthy


John Lewis



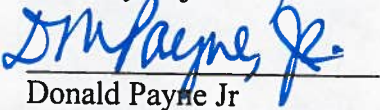
Dan Lipinski



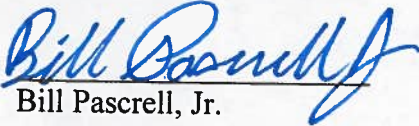
Carolyn Maloney



Ben Ray Lujan



Donald Payne Jr



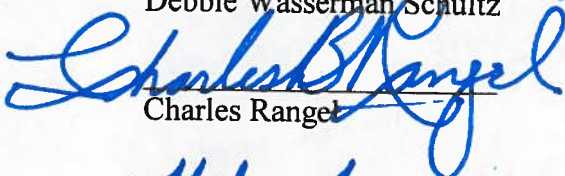
Bill Pascrell, Jr.



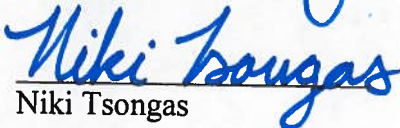
Mark Pocan



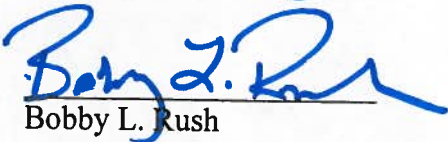
Debbie Wasserman Schultz



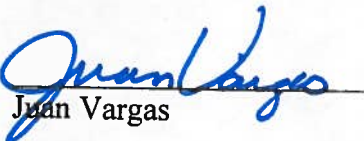
Charles Rangel



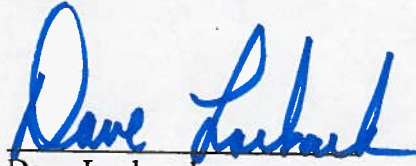
Niki Tsongas




Bobby L. Rush



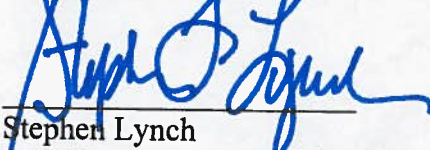
Juan Vargas



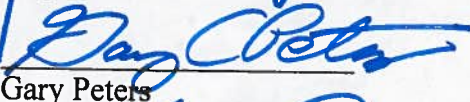
Dave Loebsack



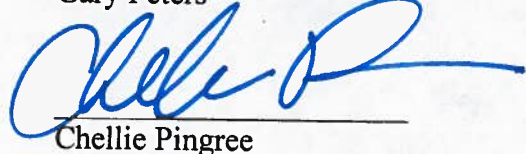
Alan Lowenthal




Stephen Lynch



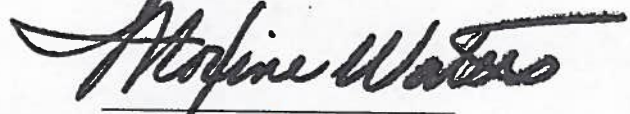
Gary Peters



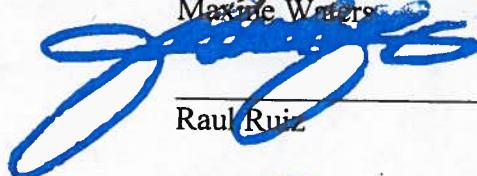
Chellie Pingree



Carol Shea-Porter



Maxine Waters



Raul Ruiz



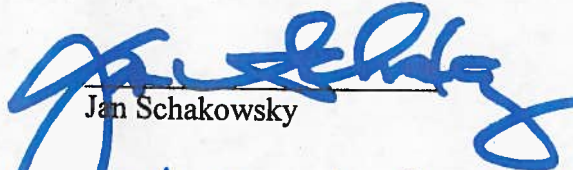
Dutch Ruppersberger

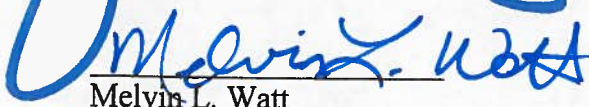


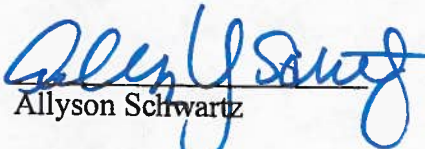
Linda Sanchez



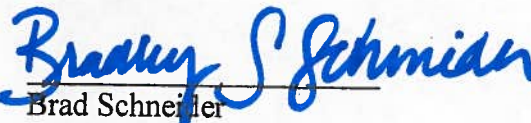
John Yarmuth



Jan Schakowsky



Melvin L. Watt


Allyson Schwartz


Bobby Scott


Brad Schneider


Tim Walz


Frederica Wilson


David Scott


Bill Owens