

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 25, 2022

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair, Subcommittee on Labor  
Health and Human Services, Education and  
Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor  
Health and Human Services, Education and  
Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Murray and Ranking Member Blunt:

We write to thank you for the Subcommittee's longstanding support of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and to request that you provide the highest level of funding possible for this vital program in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023. This request is particularly important because rising energy prices are making it more difficult for low-income Americans to heat and cool their homes. To help states respond to further unexpected fluctuations in the supply and price of energy, we also urge you to consider the inclusion of contingency funding.

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 more than 70 percent higher than last year and natural gas is nearly 35 percent higher, according to data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration. As these prices go up, the purchasing power of LIHEAP's appropriations goes down.

The National Energy Assistance Directors' Association estimates that the purchasing power of LIHEAP's FY 2022 appropriation fell by \$1.4 billion due to rising energy prices during the course of the winter heating season. 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 begin the difficult work of crafting the FY 2023 Labor Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we urge you to continue 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.

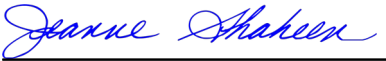
Sincerely,



Jack Reed  
United States Senator



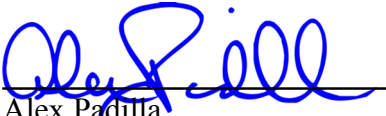
Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



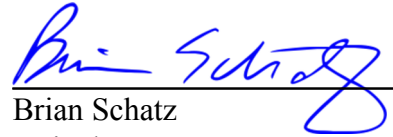
Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



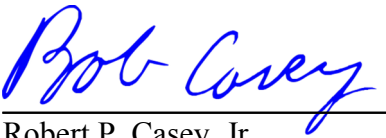
Tina Smith  
United States Senator



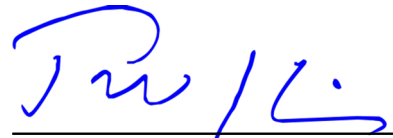
Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



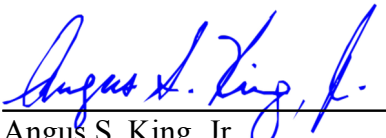
Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



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Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



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Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator



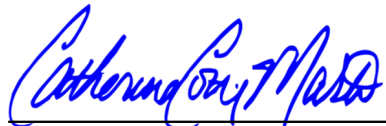
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Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



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Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



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Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



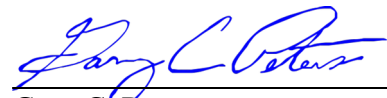
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Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator



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John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator



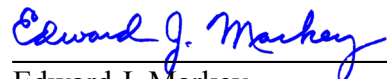
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Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



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Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



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Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



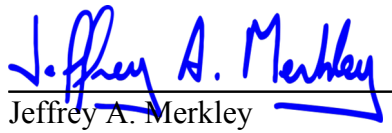
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Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator

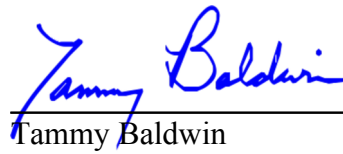


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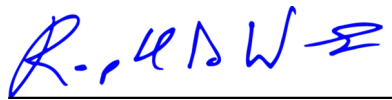
Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



Raphael G. Warnock  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



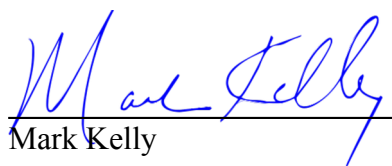
Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Mark Kelly  
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



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Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



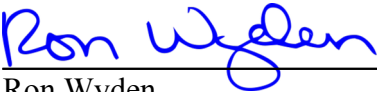
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Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



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Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



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Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



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Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator



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Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



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Robert Menendez  
United States Senator