

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 21, 2026

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

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

Dear Chair Capito and Ranking Member Baldwin:

We write to urge you to provide the highest level of funding possible for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2027. We thank you for your previous support of this important program, including the \$20 million increase you provided last year and the inclusion of bill language requiring the timely allocation of funds to states.

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.

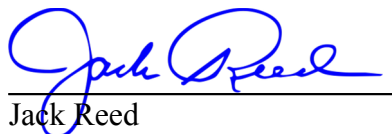
While we recognize the competing priorities you must balance, LIHEAP has become even more critical as demand for the program increases. According to the National Energy Assistance Directors' Association (NEADA), households are expected to spend 11% more on winter heating costs this winter compared to last year. In addition, NEADA reports that approximately one in six U.S. households is behind on utility bills, collectively owing about \$25 billion to electric and gas utilities.

Insufficient funding 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 work of crafting the FY 2027 Labor Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill, 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.

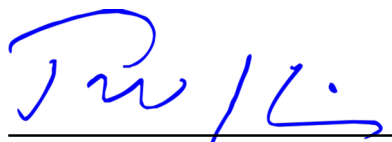
Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator



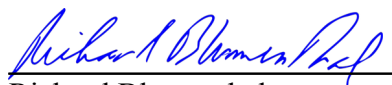
Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



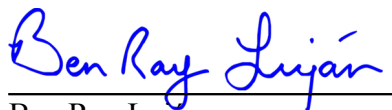
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



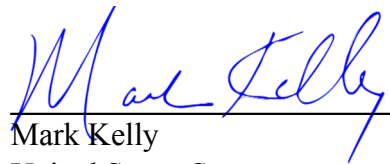
Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



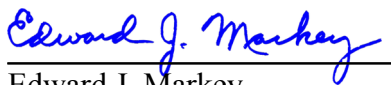
Mark Kelly
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Andy Kim
United States Senator



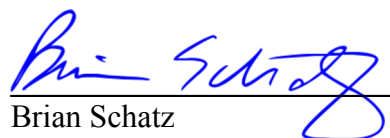
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



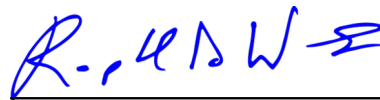
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator



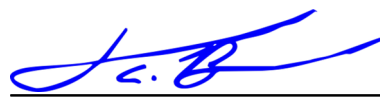
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Lisa Blunt Rochester
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



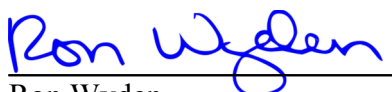
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

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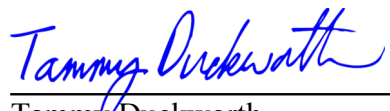
Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Van Hollen", written over a horizontal line.

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ron Wyden", written over a horizontal line.

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tammy Duckworth", written over a horizontal line.

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator