

# 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



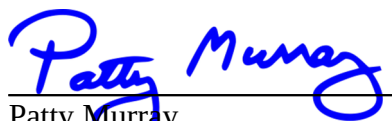
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Patrick Leahy  
United States Senator

/s/ Lisa A. Murkowski

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Lisa A. Murkowski  
United States Senator



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Patty Murray  
United States Senator

/s/ John Hoeven

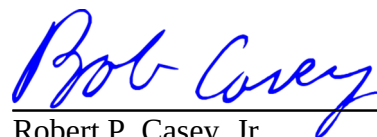
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John Hoeven  
United States Senator



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Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



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Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



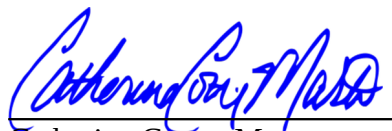
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Tina Smith  
United States Senator



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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



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Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator

/s/ Dianne Feinstein

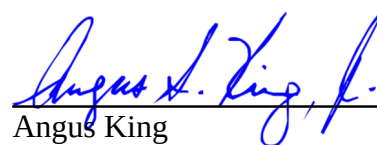
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Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



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Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



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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

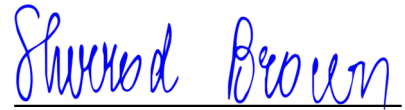
*Michael F. Bennet*

Michael Bennet  
United States Senator

/s/ Kyrsten Sinema

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Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator



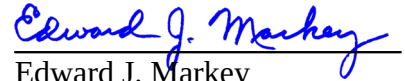
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Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



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Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



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Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



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Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator

/s/ Gary C. Peters

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Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator

/s/ Ron Wyden

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Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



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Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



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Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



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Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator

/s/ Christopher S. Murphy

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Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator

*Ben Cardin*

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Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator

*/s/ Doug Jones*

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Doug Jones  
United States Senator

*Jeffrey A. Merkley*

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Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator

*Tammy Duckworth*

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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator