

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 9, 2018

The Honorable Alex M. Azar II
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C St SW
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Secretary Azar:

As state agencies prepare their Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) programs for the winter, we respectfully request that the Department of Health and Human Services release the LIHEAP funds included in the fiscal year 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act as quickly as possible.

LIHEAP is the main federal program that helps low-income households and seniors with their energy bills, providing critical assistance during the cold winter and hot summer months. This funding has been an indispensable lifeline during challenging economic times, helping to ensure that recipients do not have to choose between paying their energy bills and paying for other necessities like food or medicine. On average, low-income families and seniors spend a higher proportion of their income on energy, and for many states, October marks the start of the heating season, creating an additional constraint on these household budgets.

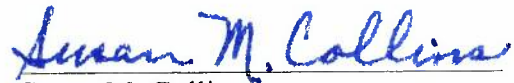
As the relevant state agencies begin to provide assistance for this winter, it is critical that they have the resources to assist low-income households and seniors as soon as possible. Therefore, we request that you quickly release LIHEAP funds in order to allow states and low-income households to prepare for the upcoming season.

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,



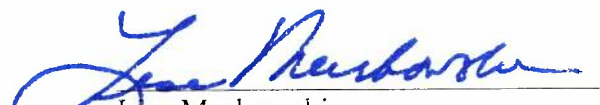
Jack Reed
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator




Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator




Joe Manchin II
United States Senator



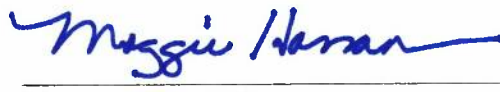
John Hoeven
United States Senator



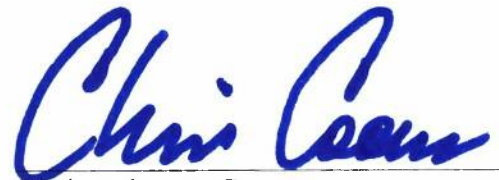
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator




Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Mazie Hirono
United States Senator




Robert Menendez
United States Senator



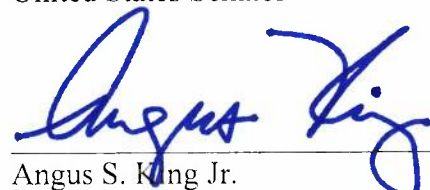
Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



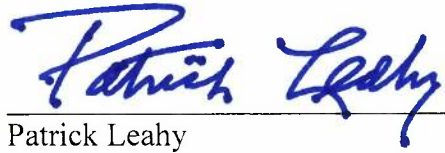
Angus S. King Jr.
United States Senator



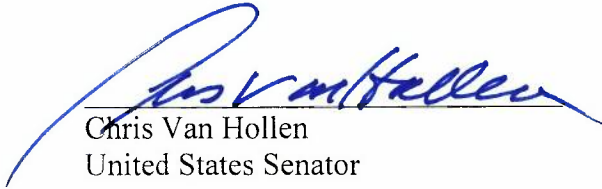
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



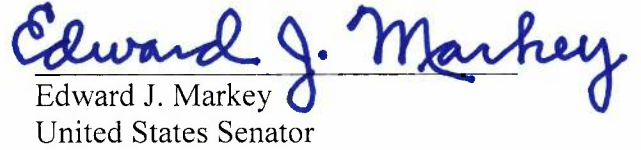
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



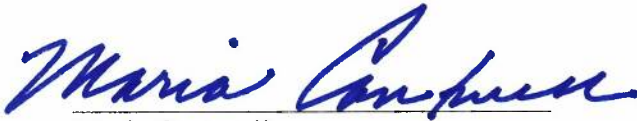
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



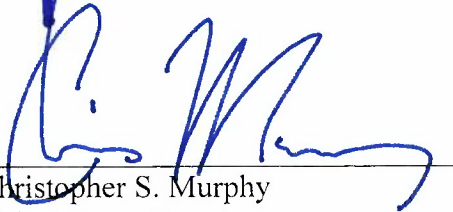
Claire McCaskill
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



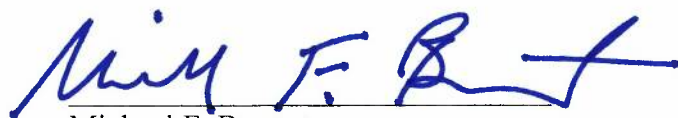
Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator



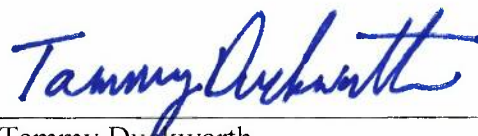
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



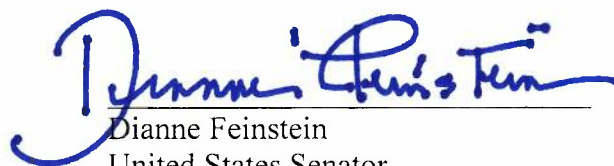
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



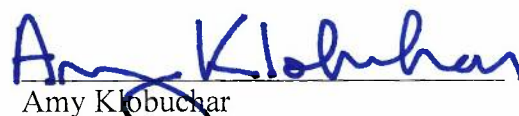
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator