

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 15, 2021

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Secretary Becerra:

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



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



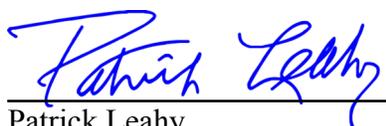
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
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Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



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United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
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Raphael G. Warnock
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



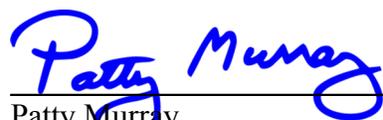
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



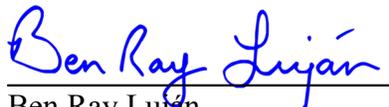
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



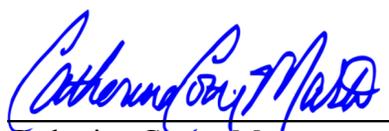
Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



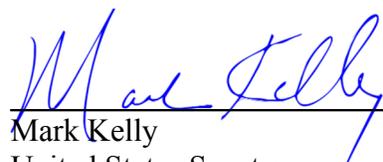
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United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator