

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 16, 2019

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 LIHEAP funds as quickly and at as high of a level as possible under the current continuing resolution.

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 states 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 and at as high of a level as possible 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,



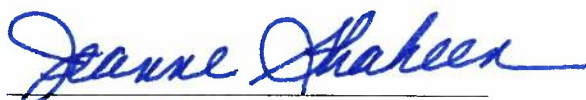
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Jack Reed  
United States Senator




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Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



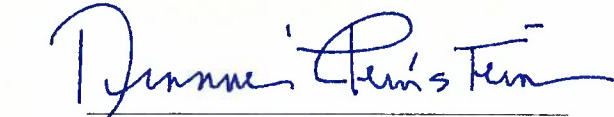
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Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator





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Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator

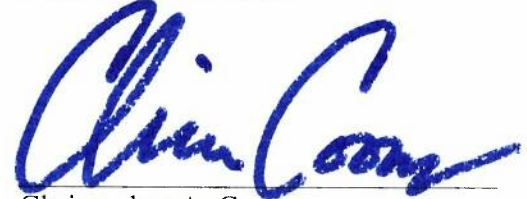
  
Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator

  
John Hoeven  
United States Senator


  
Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator

  
Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator

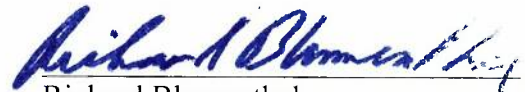
  
Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator

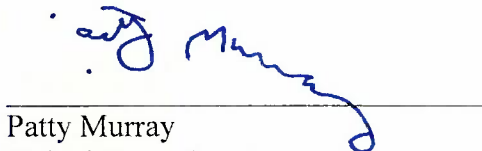
  
Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator

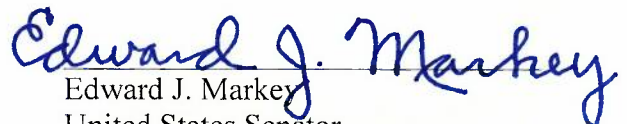
  
Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator


  
Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator

  
Robert Menendez  
United States Senator

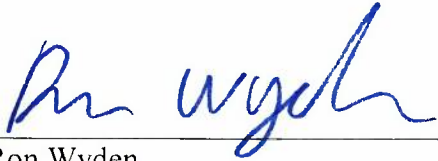
  
Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator

  
Patty Murray  
United States Senator

  
Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator

  
Angus S. King Jr.  
United States Senator

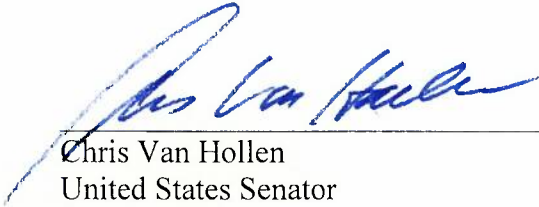
  
Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



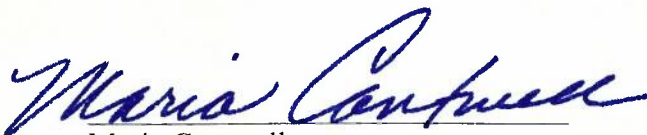
Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



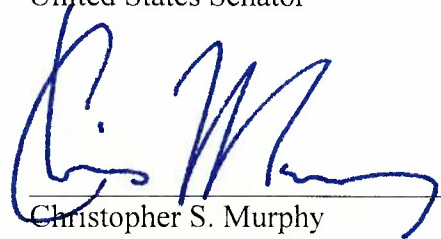
Tina Smith  
United States Senator



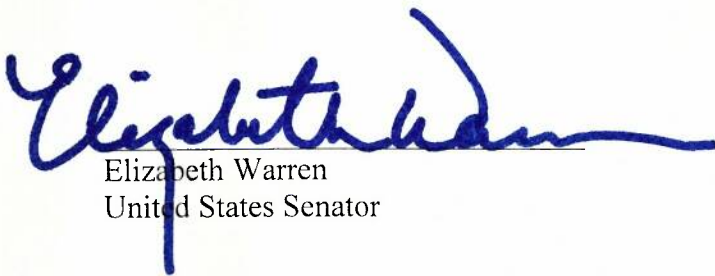
Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



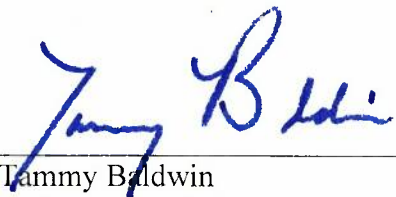
Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator




Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



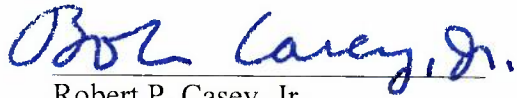
Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



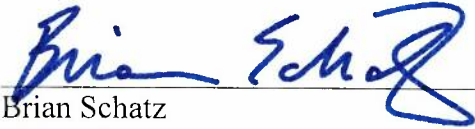
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



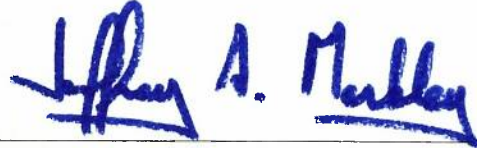
Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



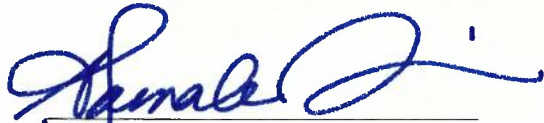
Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



Jeff Merkley  
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator