

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 30, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Becerra:

We write to urge the immediate release of the highest possible amount of Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding available under the September 2024 Continuing Resolution (PL 118-83).

As you well know, LIHEAP helps households unable to afford to heat their homes in the winter and cool their homes in the summer, providing assistance to at-risk seniors and families. In Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23), more than five million households across the country relied on critical heating assistance from the LIHEAP program.¹ For LIHEAP recipients, this funding is a lifeline, helping prevent them from having to make an impossible choice between staying warm and putting food on the table or affording their medications.

With the winter months rapidly approaching, releasing the highest amount of funding from the recent government funding package is critically needed to address the growing number of households unable to pay their energy bills. Continued escalation in the Middle East and Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine have increased uncertainty in the energy market and raised concerns about potential spikes in energy prices.² These shifts disproportionately harm those who already struggle to heat their homes and underscore the need for robust funding for LIHEAP. Historically, LIHEAP has been an underfunded and oversubscribed program. This remained true in FY23, with only around 15 percent of qualifying households nationwide receiving heating assistance through the program.³

¹ "LIHEAP Fact Sheet." The Administration for Children and Families. Accessed October 30, 2024. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/fact-sheet/liheap-fact-sheet>.

² Book, Kevin, Ben Cahill, Adi Imsirovic, Raad Alkadiri, Kunro Irié, and Leslie Palti-Guzman. "Experts React: Energy Implications of Escalating Middle East Conflict." CSIS, October 8, 2024. <https://www.csis.org/analysis/experts-react-energy-implications-escalating-middle-east-conflict>.

³ ACF, "Custom Reports, Percent of Income-Eligible Households Served by Any Type of LIHEAP Assistance- All Grantees," LIHEAP Data Warehouse, https://liheappm.acf.hhs.gov/datawarehouse/custom_reports (accessed October 23, 2023).

To prevent a lapse in eligible families' ability to afford their home energy bills this fall, we urge you to immediately release the highest possible amount of LIHEAP funding made available by the Continuing Resolution. It is vital to ensure our seniors and low-income families are provided sufficient resources as temperatures cool in the months ahead.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to working with you further on this crucial program.

Sincerely,



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



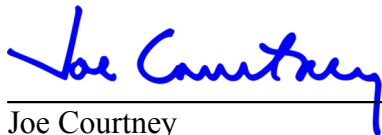
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



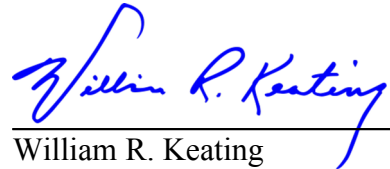
Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



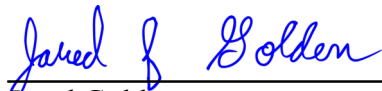
Andre Carson
Member of Congress



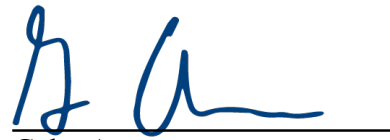
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



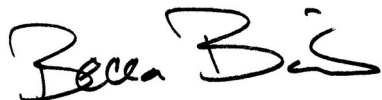
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Jared Golden
Member of Congress



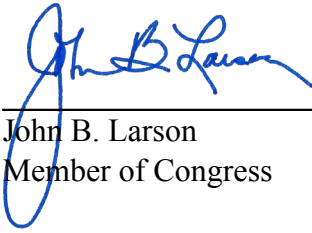
Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



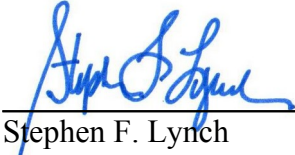
Becca Balint
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
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