

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 7, 2023

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jefferies
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Johnson and Minority Leader Jefferies,

We write to support the inclusion of \$1.6 billion in funding for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in any government funding package, to reflect the President's FY24 emergency supplemental funding request.

As you know, LIHEAP helps families who are at risk of being unable to afford to heat their homes in the winter or cool them in the summer. Last year, more than six million households across the country relied on critical assistance from the LIHEAP program. For the families who receive LIHEAP, it is a critical lifeline that prevents them from making the impossible choice between staying warm and having enough food or paying for their medications.

With the winter months rapidly approaching, this funding is also needed to help address significant price fluctuations that energy markets continue to experience due to Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine. The conflict in the Middle East has also increased market uncertainty, and many energy market experts fear a rise in energy costs. These shifts disproportionately harm those who already struggle to pay their energy bills and underscore the need for robust funding for LIHEAP.

Last year, \$4.515 billion was distributed in LIHEAP funding across the country, including \$100 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and \$1 billion in supplemental appropriations. Even so, LIHEAP remains an historically underfunded and oversubscribed program with only 20 percent of households who qualify receiving support. Fortunately, determining one's eligibility for LIHEAP is easier than ever following HHS's release of a multilingual tool for households to quickly check if they qualify for assistance. However, without additional funding, LIHEAP will

only run out sooner. Congress has a responsibility to fully fund President Biden's supplemental request for additional funding for LIHEAP in FY24.

As you work to finalize a supplemental funding package, please include robust funding for LIHEAP to help families stay warm and prevent drastic service and benefit cuts this winter.

Sincerely,



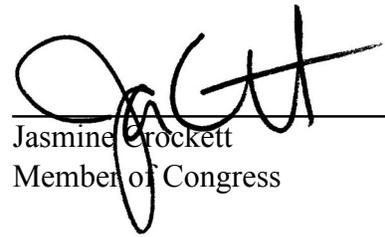
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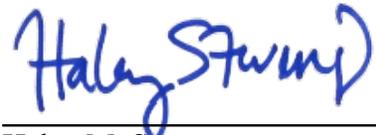
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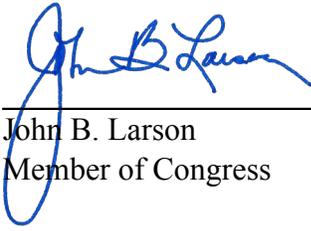
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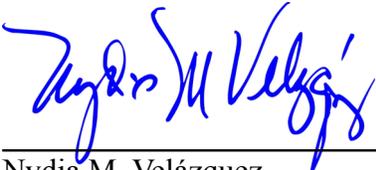
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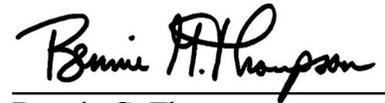
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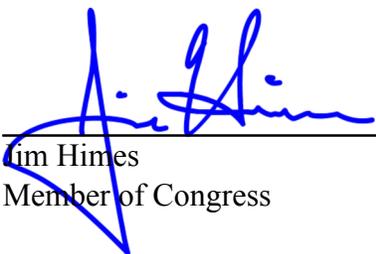
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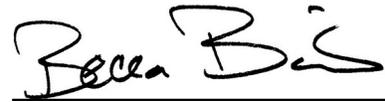
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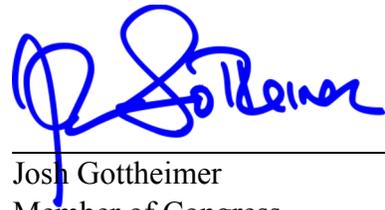
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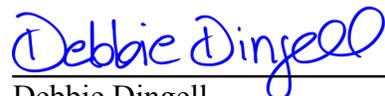
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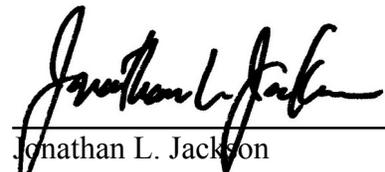
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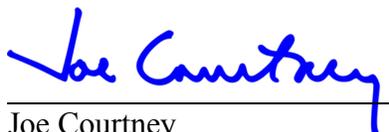
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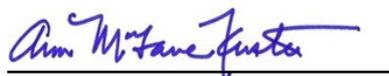
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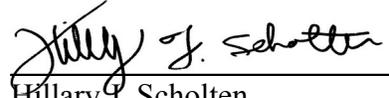
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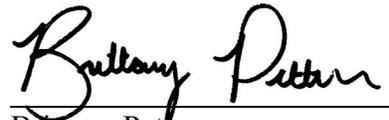
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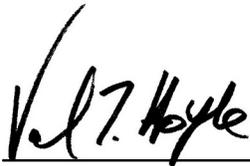
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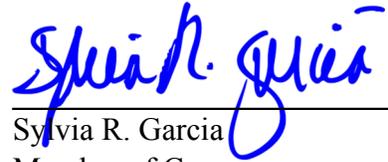
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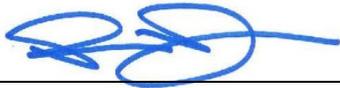
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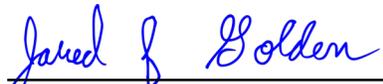
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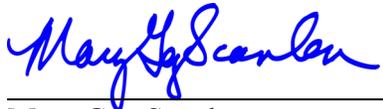
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