

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 25, 2026

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
Secretary of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy,

We urge the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to ensure that funding from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is distributed to states as soon as possible and no later than November 1, 2026, as required by the Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act for Fiscal Year 2027 (P.L. 119-103), in preparation for the coming colder season. With a history of repeated funding delays by HHS to states, we are especially concerned for households facing high energy prices this winter who rely on LIHEAP. We appreciate the agency's responsiveness to Congressional requests for expeditious LIHEAP fund releases over Fiscal Year 2026, but with households facing skyrocketing high energy costs, it is of the utmost importance that the agency ensures funds are released as soon as possible and without congressional intervention throughout Fiscal Year 2027.

Since February, crude oil prices have significantly increased, topping significantly more than \$100 per barrel at its peaks in April 2026 and recently on September 15, 2026. These price spikes impact home heating oil prices especially, as it is refined from crude oil. While states do what they can to protect households with utility shutoff moratoriums throughout the coldest months out of the year, these moratoriums do not protect households who rely on home heating oil and face large upfront costs early in the season to fill their home heating oil tank.

For these households, timely delivery of LIHEAP funds is especially crucial. Home heating oil will not be delivered without payment in full, up front, which can average \$2,300 for just the winter season.¹ For the many families that cannot afford these high costs, LIHEAP is a lifeline. If households don't receive these funds on schedule, families will go without heat or be forced to make remarkably difficult decisions in order to afford it.

We also continue to have serious concerns about the LIHEAP program's capacity to operate effectively without dedicated staff. These concerns will continue to grow if HHS is unable to distribute LIHEAP funds on time this year. We urge you to ensure that necessary personnel and

¹ <https://www.kcra.com/article/us-winter-heating-costs-to-increase/73687398>

resources are in place to support LIHEAP's continued success and request a detailed response on staffing levels supporting the LIHEAP program, including but not limited to how many staff members work on the program full time and part time, as well as projected vacancies that must be filled to ensure continued success.

Once again we urge you to do everything possible to distribute LIHEAP funds to states and families expeditiously. Families should not have to choose between staying warm and affording other essential items like food, medication, or rent. We appreciate your attention on this urgent matter and stand ready to support the agency in assisting the American people.

Sincerely,



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



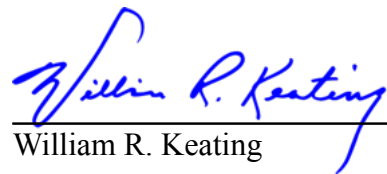
Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



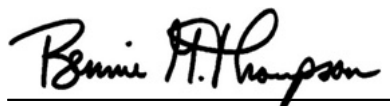
Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Josh Riley
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



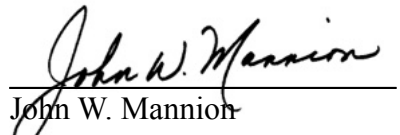
Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress



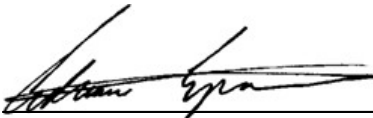
Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



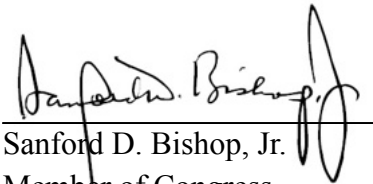
John W. Mannion
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



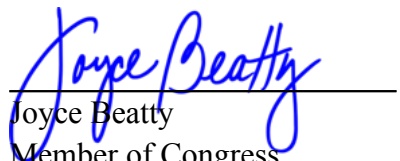
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



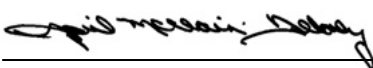
Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



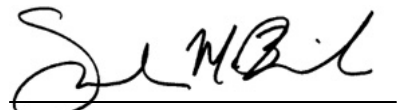
Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress
(OH-03)



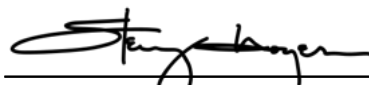
April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



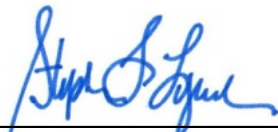
Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



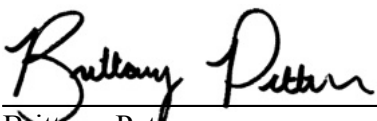
Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



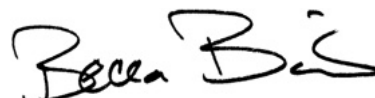
Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Patrick Ryan
Member of Congress



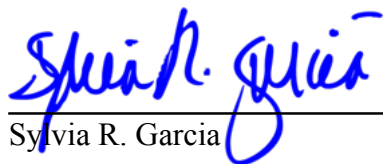
Becca Balint
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



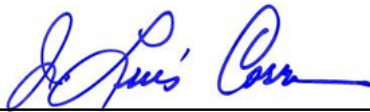
Mark Takano
Member of Congress



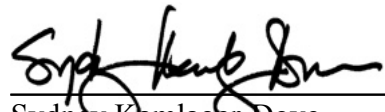
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



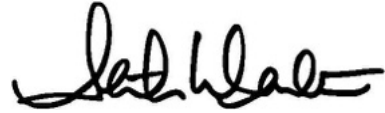
J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager Dove
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



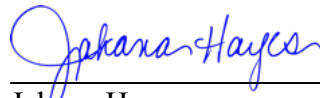
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



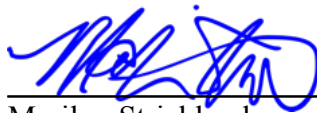
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



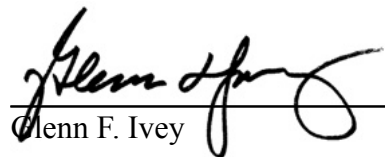
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



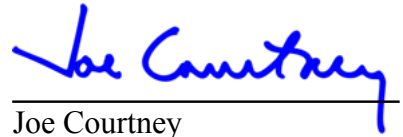
Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



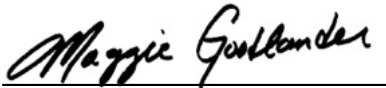
Glenn F. Ivey
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress



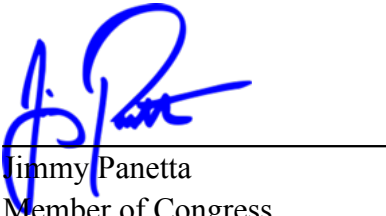
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



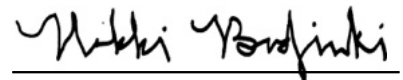
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



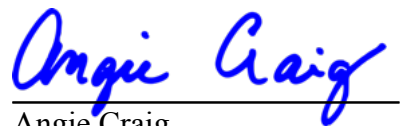
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



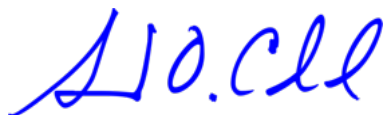
Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Frank J. Mrvan
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



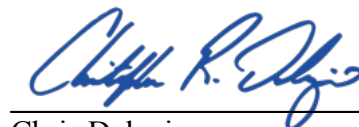
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



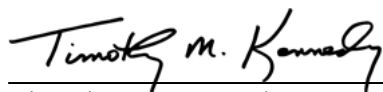
Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



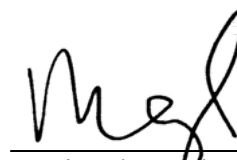
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress



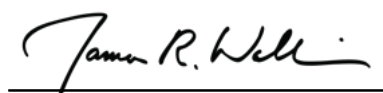
Marie Gluesenkamp Perez
Member of Congress



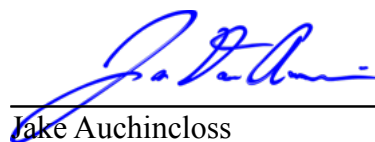
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



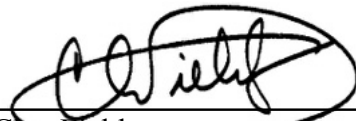
James R. Walkinshaw
Member of Congress



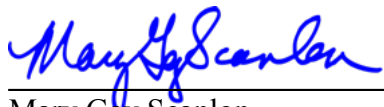
Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



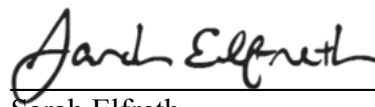
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



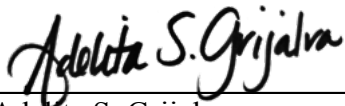
Cleo Fields
Member of Congress



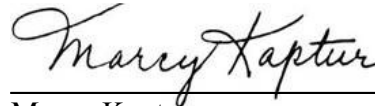
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



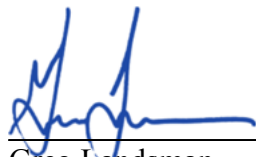
Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



Adelta S. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



Nancy Pelosi
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



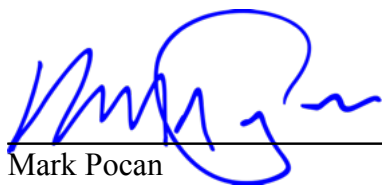
Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



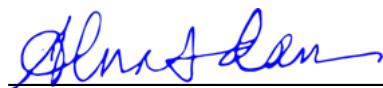
Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



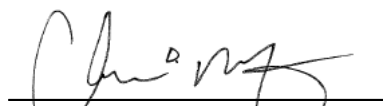
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Christian D. Menefee
Member of Congress



Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



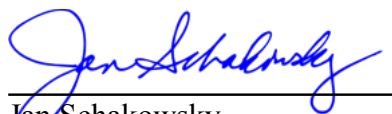
Nellie Pou
Member of Congress



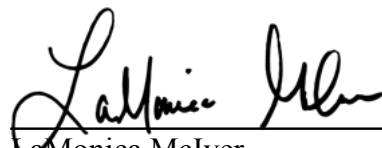
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



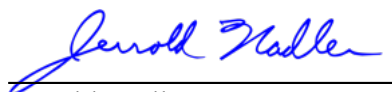
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



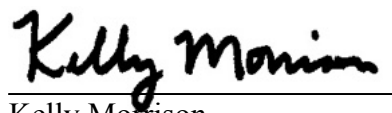
Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



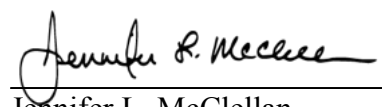
Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



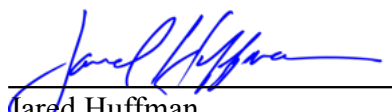
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Everton Blair Jr.
Member of Congress



Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Delia C. Ramirez", written over a horizontal line.

Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress