

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 10, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Leahy, Chairwoman DeLauro, Vice Chairman Shelby, and Ranking Member Granger:

We appreciate your longstanding support for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). As you work toward a final agreement on the FY22 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies bill, we urge you to fund LIHEAP at the highest level possible to help ensure that it meets the needs of eligible low-income households and seniors.

LIHEAP is the main federal program that helps low-income households and seniors with their energy bills, providing vital assistance during both the cold winter and hot summer months. LIHEAP assistance is an indispensable lifeline, helping to ensure that recipients do not have to choose between paying their energy bills and affording other necessities like food and medicine. Access to affordable home energy is a matter of health and safety for many low-income households, children, and seniors.

While we recognize ongoing discretionary budget challenges, we are very concerned that the number of households eligible for LIHEAP assistance continues to exceed available funding. This is at a time when the average cost of home heating and cooling remains unaffordable for many households nationwide, leaving many low-income families and seniors struggling to pay for the basic necessity of home energy and having fewer resources available to meet other essential needs.

As you proceed with negotiations on the FY 2022 funding bill, we thank you again for your past support of the program and ask that you continue to take into account the great need for LIHEAP. Prioritizing LIHEAP in FY 2022 would ensure that eligible, low-income households and seniors receive much needed heating and cooling assistance.

Sincerely,



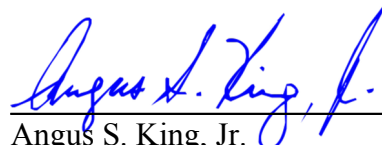
Jack Reed
United States Senator



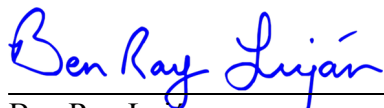
Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



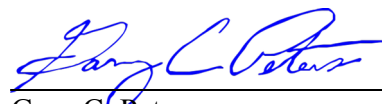
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



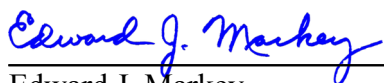
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



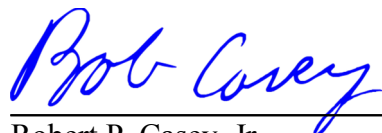
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Kyrsten Sinema
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Tammy Baldwin
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United States Senator



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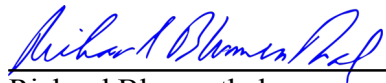
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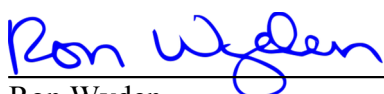
Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



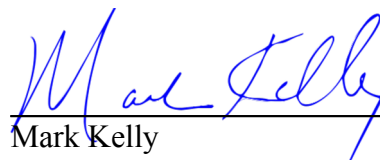
Raphael G. Warnock
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



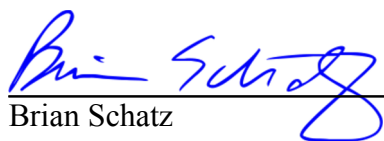
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