

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 23, 2025

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee,  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
H-310, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee,  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
H-310, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We write to request the inclusion of language in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act to ensure the Low Income Home Energy Program (LIHEAP) has the proper staffing level to be efficiently allocated to states.

As you may know, on April 1, 2025, approximately 10,000 employees at HHS received notice that they had been placed on administrative leave until June 2, 2025, after which their position would be terminated. These layoffs included the entirety of the team at the Office of Community Services within the Office of the Administration for Children and Families, which leads dozens of programs, including LIHEAP. Though the staff of 25 employees account for only a small fraction of the announced layoffs, they are responsible for administering billions of dollars each year to support millions of families across the nation in heating and cooling their homes.

LIHEAP is vital for millions of families, and in fact is oversubscribed. More than 25 million American households report foregoing food and medicine to pay their energy bills, and of those, 7 million households report that they face that decision every month.<sup>1</sup> LIHEAP benefits target households who need the assistance the most, particularly those that have a high home energy burden and or have household members who are elderly, disabled, and or young children. In Fiscal Year 2023, 2.1 million recipient households included an individual with a disability, 996,000 households included a young child, and 2.4 million households included an elderly adult.<sup>2</sup> The program is a lifeline for American families who struggle to heat their home in the winter and cool their homes in the summer.

Without any federal employees dedicated to administering LIHEAP, there will be delays at the minimum in the release of LIHEAP funds, directly impacting our most vulnerable citizens. We therefore request the following language be included in the FY26 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill:

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.npr.org/2018/09/19/649633468/31-percent-of-u-s-households-have-trouble-paying-energy-bills>

<sup>2</sup> <https://acf.gov/ocs/fact-sheet/liheap-fact-sheet>

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

“Sec. \_\_\_\_ Provided, That, notwithstanding any other provision of the law none of the funds provided by this Act or provided by previous Appropriations Acts to the Department of Health and Human Services available for obligation or expenditure in the current fiscal year may be used for any activity relating to implementing a reorganization that decentralizes, reduces the staffing level, or alters the responsibilities, structure, authority, or functionality of the Administration for Children and Families, relative to the organization and operation of the Budget Service as in effect on January 1, 2025.”

We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



Derek T. Tran  
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



Patrick K. Ryan  
Member of Congress



Maggie Goodlander  
Member of Congress

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515



Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



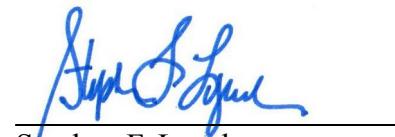
Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



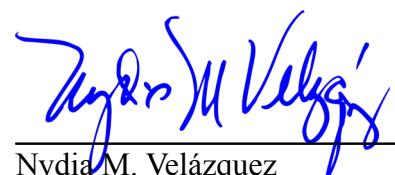
Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



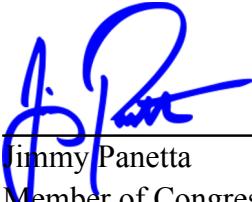
Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar  
Member of Congress

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515



Timmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



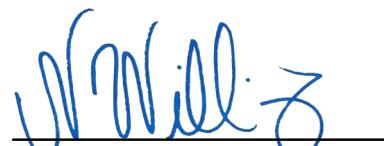
Yassamin Ansari  
Member of Congress



Timothy M. Kennedy  
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



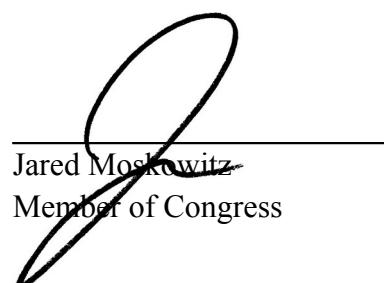
Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



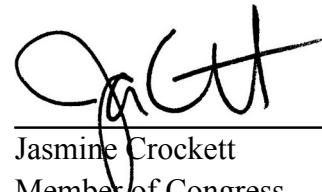
Jared Moskowitz  
Member of Congress

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515



Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett  
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



Emily Randall  
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



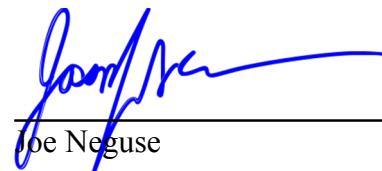
Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski  
Member of Congress



George Whitesides  
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen  
Member of Congress

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515



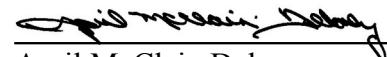
Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



Laura Friedman  
Member of Congress



April McClain Delaney  
Member of Congress



Andre Carson  
Member of Congress



David Scott  
Member of Congress



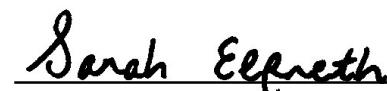
MARK TAKANO  
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



Pablo José Hernández  
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth  
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress