

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.¹ 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.² 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:

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

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

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“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.

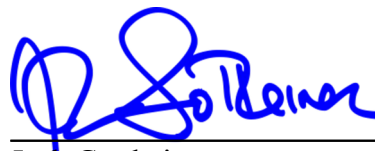
Sincerely,



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

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Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



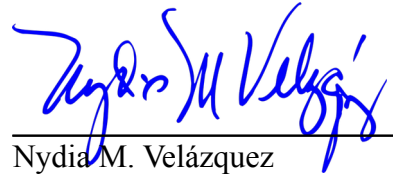
Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



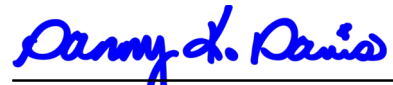
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



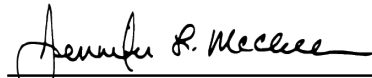
Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress

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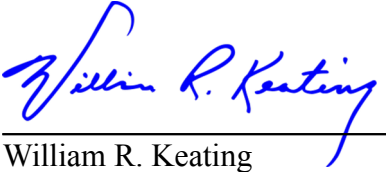
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Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



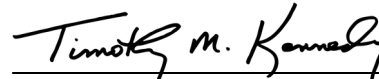
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



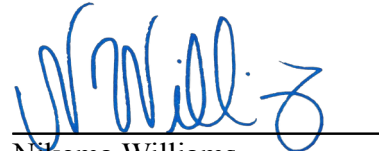
Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



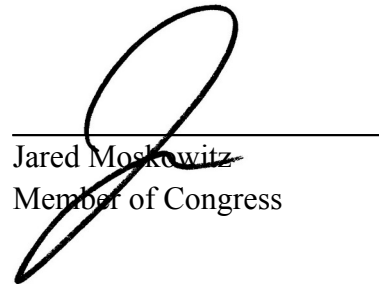
Delia C. Ramirez
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Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



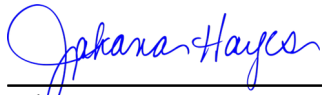
Joe Courtney
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Jared Moskowitz
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Jahana Hayes
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Jasmine Crockett
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Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



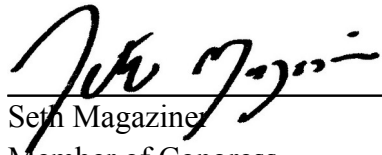
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



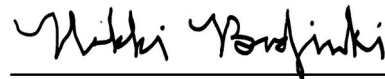
Emily Randall
Member of Congress



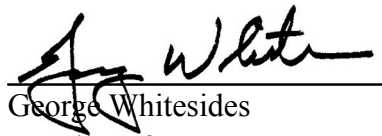
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



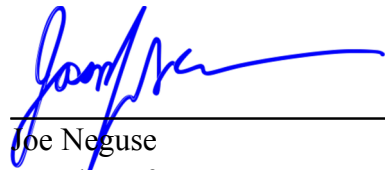
Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



George Whitesides
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



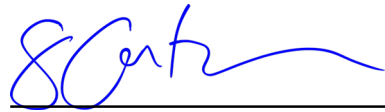
Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress

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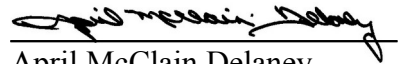
Jim Costa
Member of Congress



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



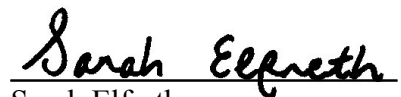
MARK TAKANO
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Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



Pablo José Hernández
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Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress