

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 10, 2012

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary
United States Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is an indispensable lifeline for low-income households. As state agencies prepare their LIHEAP programs for the winter, we respectfully request that the Department of Health and Human Services release LIHEAP funds as quickly and at as high of a level as possible under the current continuing resolution.

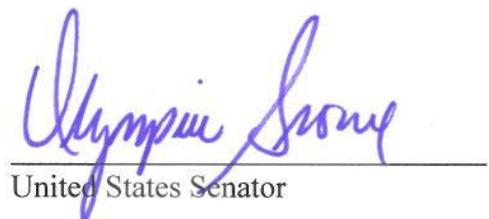
LIHEAP is the main federal program that helps low-income households and seniors with their energy bills, providing vital assistance during both the cold winter and hot summer months. This funding has been a lifeline during the economic downturn, helping to ensure that recipients do not have to choose between paying their energy bills and paying for food or medicine. In addition, on average low-income families spend a higher proportion of their income on energy, and for many states, October marks the start of the heating season, creating an additional constraint on these household budgets.

The ongoing difficult economic climate and elevated levels of unemployment across our states continue to add to the challenges facing our least fortunate this heating season. As the relevant state agencies begin to provide assistance for this winter, it is critical that they have the resources to assist low-income households as soon as possible. Therefore, we request that you quickly release these funds and at as high of a level as possible in order to allow states and low-income households to prepare for the upcoming season.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on this critical program, and thank you for your attention to our concerns and those of our constituents.

Sincerely,


United States Senator


United States Senator

Shirrod Brown

United States Senator

Shirrod Brown

United States Senator

Dick Durbin

United States Senator

Dick Durbin

United States Senator

Al Franken

United States Senator

Al Franken

United States Senator

Robert Menendez

United States Senator

Robert Menendez

United States Senator

Jay Byrnes

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Jay Byrnes

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Cory Gardner

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Debbie Stabenow

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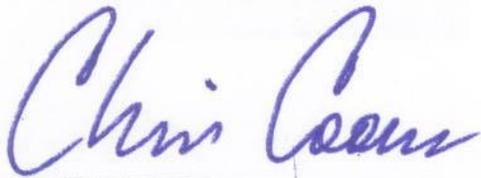
United States Senator

Al Franken

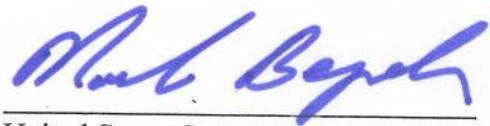
United States Senator

Al Franken

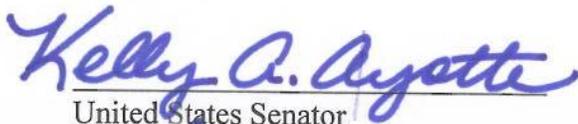
United States Senator



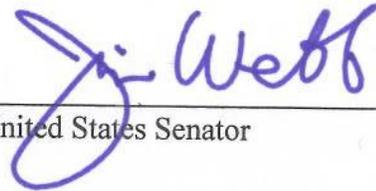
United States Senator



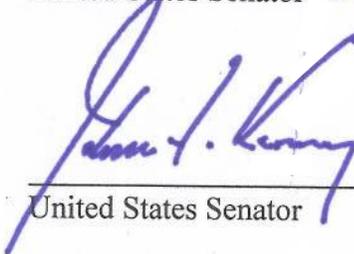
United States Senator



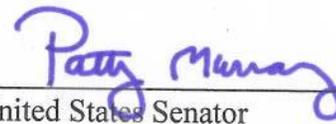
United States Senator



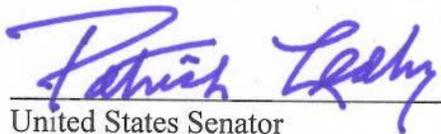
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United States Senator



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United States Senator



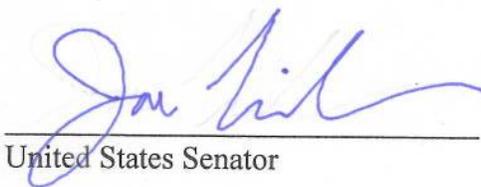
United States Senator



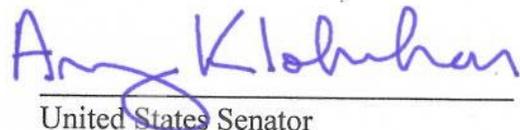
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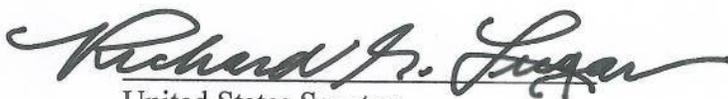
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Rebecca Stabenow
United States Senator

Susan M Collins
United States Senator

Ben Cardin
United States Senator

Carl Levin
United States Senator

Bob Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator