

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 05, 2012

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We are writing to request that you prioritize the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in your Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) budget proposal by including no less than \$4.7 billion for this critical support for our least fortunate.

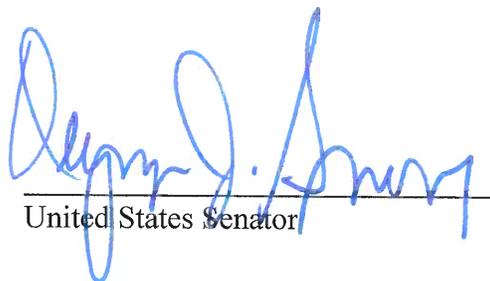
LIHEAP is the main federal program that helps low-income households and seniors with their energy bills, providing vital assistance during both the cold winter and hot summer months. Energy costs are challenging for the budgets of American households. In fact, according to a recent Energy Information and Administration (EIA) report, household expenditures this winter for heating oil and natural gas are projected to increase by 19 percent and 15 percent respectively. While this constrains middle-income households, it disproportionately affects low-income households, many of which are seniors and on fixed-incomes. Moreover, with Social Security benefits increasing by only 1.7 percent this year, or an average of \$19 per month, many elderly Americans will be facing difficult choices to simply provide a basic level of comfort in their home.

As supporters of the LIHEAP program we are very cognizant of the challenges that our discretionary budget faces in FY14. However, we are deeply concerned that funding for the program has declined 32 percent in recent years to \$3.47 billion last year at the same time the number of households eligible for the program continues to exceed those receiving assistance. As a result, we urge you to reprioritize this program within your FY14 budget and restore funding to this indispensable program to a level of \$4.7 billion.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to working with you to address this important priority.

Sincerely,


United States Senator


United States Senator

Sheldon Brown

United States Senator

Susan Collins

United States Senator

Chris Coons

United States Senator

Kelly A. Ayotte

United States Senator

Mark Begich

United States Senator

John J. Kerry

United States Senator

Jim Webb

United States Senator

Paul Dur

United States Senator

Bob Casey, Jr.

United States Senator

Kirsten E. Gillibrand

United States Senator

Ron Wyden

United States Senator

Patrick Leahy

United States Senator

Mark Royce

United States Senator

Ben Cardin

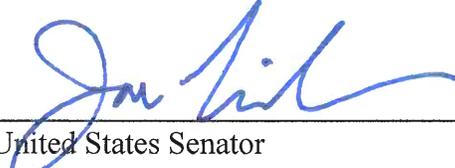
United States Senator

Max Baucus

United States Senator

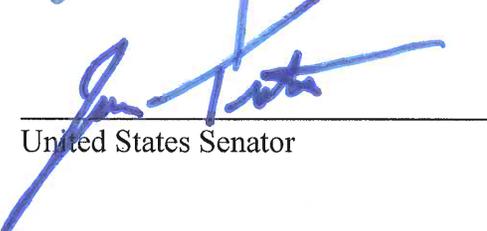
Kay Hagan

United States Senator


United States Senator


United States Senator


United States Senator


United States Senator


United States Senator


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United States Senator

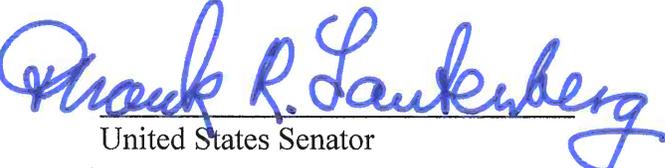

United States Senator


United States Senator

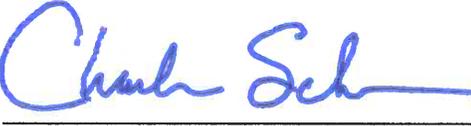

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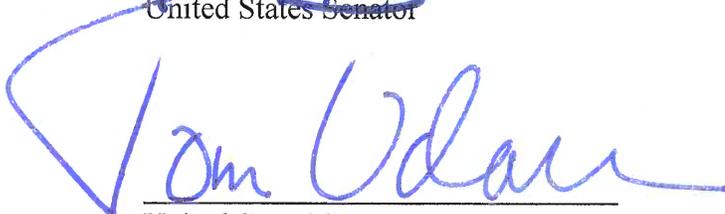
United States Senator



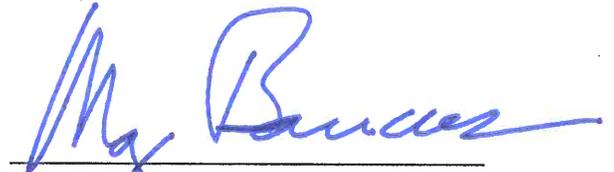
United States Senator



United States Senator



United States Senator



United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Jeffrey Zients, Acting Director of Office of Management and Budget
The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services