

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 7, 2017

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write in support of two successful federal programs, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), that are currently helping to meet the energy needs of eligible low-income households across the country. Access to affordable home energy is a matter of health and safety for many low-income households, children, veterans, and seniors. LIHEAP and WAP have enjoyed bipartisan support, and we hope that you will prioritize funding for both programs in your fiscal year 2018 budget proposal.

LIHEAP helps low-income households, veterans, and seniors with their energy bills, providing an indispensable lifeline during both the cold winters and hot summer months. More than 90 percent of LIHEAP recipients have at least one household member who is a child, elderly, or disabled, and the percentage of households with at least one veteran has grown to 20 percent. The program helps to ensure that eligible recipients do not have to choose between paying their energy bills and affording other necessities like food and medicine. This is especially important during the peak winter heating and summer cooling seasons, when energy bills can comprise roughly 30 percent of a low-income household's monthly income. Sadly, though, the number of households eligible for LIHEAP assistance continues to exceed the program's capacity.

The Weatherization Assistance Program is another key initiative, which for 40 years has helped to reduce more permanently the burden of high home energy prices for over 7.4 million low-income households. By supporting lasting and cost-effective home energy efficiency improvements for low-income families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities, WAP is increasing the energy efficiency of dwellings, reducing residential energy bills, improving the health and safety of our most vulnerable citizens, and helping to lower the need for short-term assistance. WAP has been repeatedly demonstrated as cost-effective, and has supported thousands of high quality, skilled jobs. A study by Oak Ridge National Laboratory found that weatherization saves eligible single-family homes on average \$283 in annual energy cost savings, which benefits not only the household but the local economy.

Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this important request. We recognize the ongoing challenges facing the discretionary budget and look forward to working with you to support these vital programs and ensure access to affordable home energy for the most vulnerable households in every state.

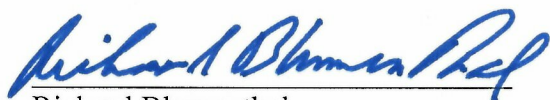
Sincerely,



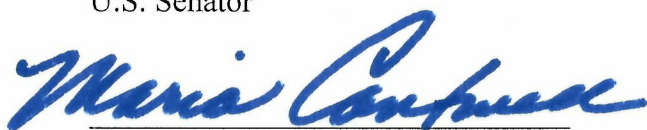
Jack Reed
U.S. Senator



Tammy Baldwin
U.S. Senator



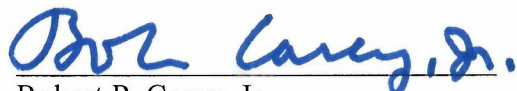
Richard Blumenthal
U.S. Senator



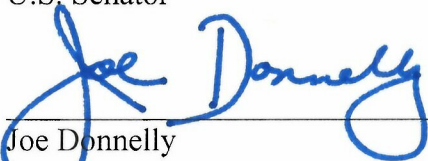
Maria Cantwell
U.S. Senator



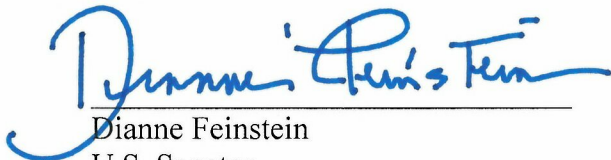
Benjamin L. Cardin
U.S. Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
U.S. Senator



Joe Donnelly
U.S. Senator



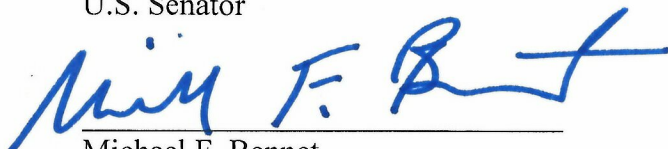
Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senator



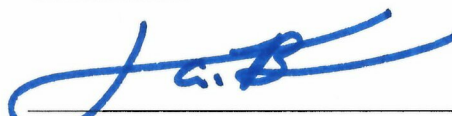
Kirsten Gillibrand
U.S. Senator



Susan M. Collins
U.S. Senator



Michael F. Bennet
U.S. Senator



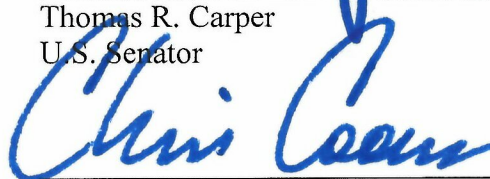
Cory A. Booker
U.S. Senator



Sherrod Brown
U.S. Senator



Thomas R. Carper
U.S. Senator



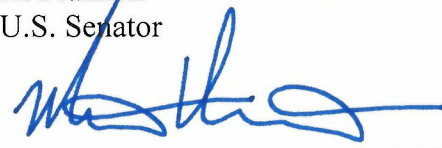
Christopher A. Coons
U.S. Senator



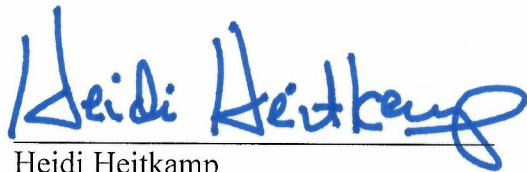
Richard J. Durbin
U.S. Senator



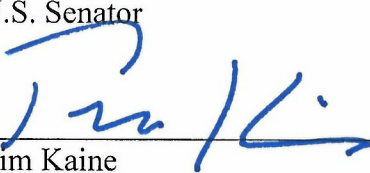
Al Franken
U.S. Senator



Martin Heinrich
U.S. Senator



Heidi Heitkamp
U.S. Senator



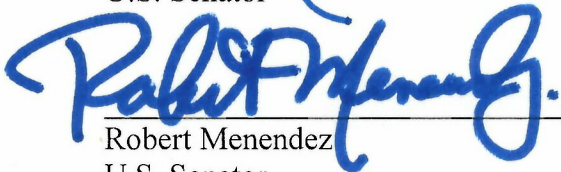
Tim Kaine
U.S. Senator



Amy Klobuchar
U.S. Senator



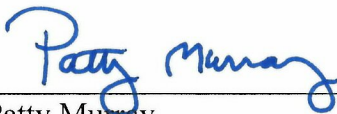
Joe Manchin
U.S. Senator



Robert Menendez
U.S. Senator




Lisa Murkowski
U.S. Senator



Patty Murray
U.S. Senator



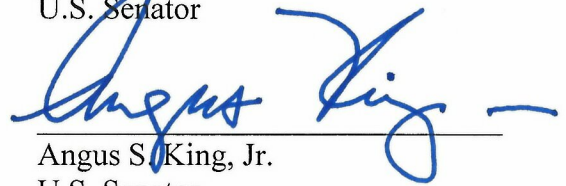
Gary C. Peters
U.S. Senator



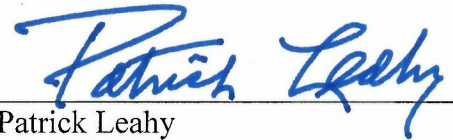
Jeanne Shaheen
U.S. Senator



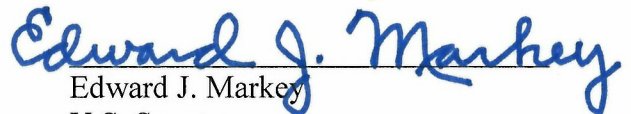
Mazie Hirono
U.S. Senator



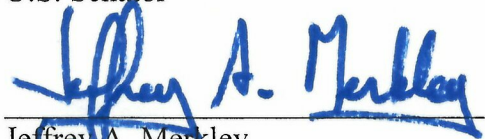
Angus S. King, Jr.
U.S. Senator



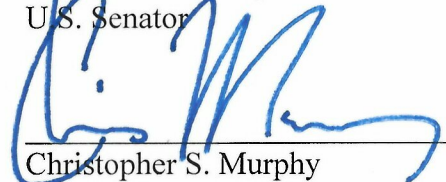
Patrick Leahy
U.S. Senator



Edward J. Markey
U.S. Senator



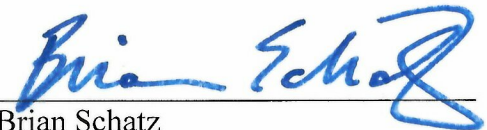
Jeffrey A. Merkley
U.S. Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
U.S. Senator



Bill Nelson
U.S. Senator



Brian Schatz
U.S. Senator



Debbie Stabenow
U.S. Senator



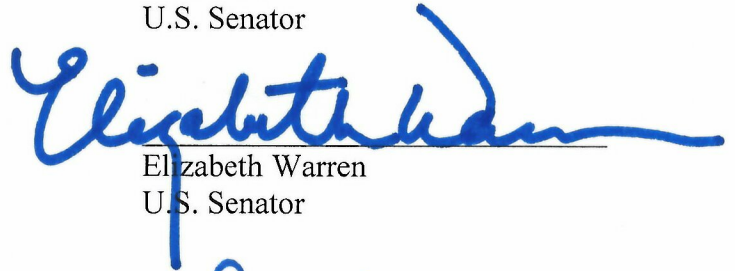
Jon Tester
U.S. Senator



Tom Udall
U.S. Senator



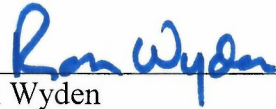
Mark R. Warner
U.S. Senator



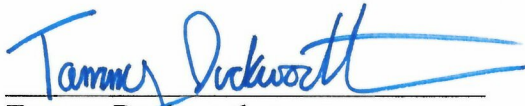
Elizabeth Warren
U.S. Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
U.S. Senator



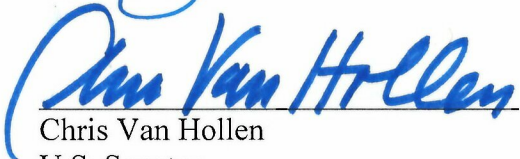
Ron Wyden
U.S. Senator



Tammy Duckworth
U.S. Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
U.S. Senator



Chris Van Hollen
U.S. Senator

CC: Mark Sandy, Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget