

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 6, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Leahy, Chairwoman DeLauro, Vice Chairman Shelby, and Ranking Member Granger:


We appreciate the Committee's longstanding support for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and your work to include \$1 billion in emergency funding for LIHEAP in the Continuing Resolution. As you know, the Biden Administration's most recent disaster supplemental request included an additional \$500 million for LIHEAP to address growing winter heating needs. We agree that additional LIHEAP funding is critical as high energy prices continue to make it difficult for low-income Americans to afford their energy bills, and as such, we urge the Committee to provide additional emergency funding for the program.

As you know, LIHEAP is the main federal program that helps low-income households and seniors pay their energy bills, providing vital assistance during both the cold winter and hot summer months. Access to affordable home energy is a matter of health and safety for many low-income households, children, and seniors. LIHEAP assistance is an indispensable lifeline, helping to ensure that recipients do not have to choose between paying their energy bills and affording other necessities like food and medicine.

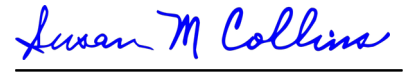
While we recognize the competing priorities you must balance, the number of households eligible for LIHEAP assistance continues to exceed available funding. Meanwhile, the average cost of heating oil is nearly 70 percent higher than last year and natural gas is 20 percent higher, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. As these prices go up, the purchasing power of LIHEAP's appropriations goes down. This leaves states in the position of making tough choices about the amount of assistance they will provide and the number of people they will serve with the limited funding available. Ensuring that LIHEAP is well-funded will help guarantee that the program has the resources it needs to help as many eligible, low-income households and seniors as possible.

As you craft a supplemental appropriations package, we urge you continue to your strong support of vulnerable Americans by providing additional emergency funding for LIHEAP. Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this request.

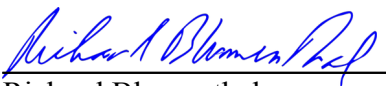
Sincerely,



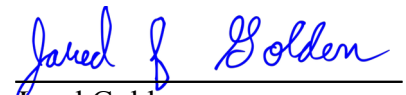
Jack Reed
United States Senator



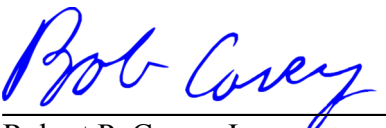
Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Jared Golden
Member of Congress



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator