

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 16, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to request that you prioritize funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in your Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 budget proposal. Specifically, we request that your budget fully fund LIHEAP, and that you consider additional supplemental contingency funding.

LIHEAP is a crucial lifeline for many Americans, helping low income households, seniors, and veterans with their energy bills in both the cold winter and hot summer months. LIHEAP continues to provide vital assistance for some of our most vulnerable households and is a critical tool in our efforts to ensure that Americans do not have to choose between paying their energy bills and affording other necessities, such as food or medicine.

We are deeply concerned that the number of households eligible for LIHEAP assistance continues to exceed available funding, while the program's buying power has decreased because of increasing energy costs. Current funding is able to serve just one in six of all eligible households, potentially leaving up to 26 million American households unserved.

As the economic picture has worsened due to the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the number of families falling behind in paying their utility bills is growing. The National Energy Assistance Directors' Association (NEADA) projects that an additional five million households will be eligible for energy assistance this year as a direct result of virus-related layoffs. As a result, NEADA also estimates that 15 to 20 percent of residential customers are at least 60 days behind on their electric and natural gas bills.

The existing demand for the energy assistance, in conjunction with the increased need resulting from the COVID-19-related economic crisis, necessitates full funding for LIHEAP. As such, as you develop your FY 2022 budget request, we urge you to prioritize funding for this program.

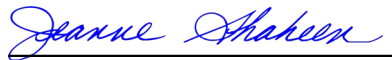
Sincerely,



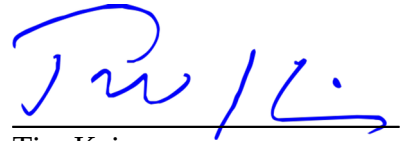
Jack Reed
United States Senator



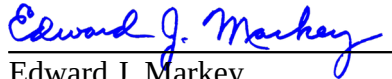
Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



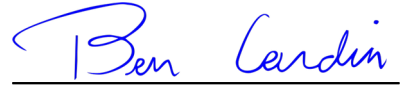
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



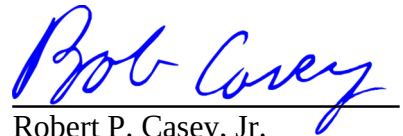
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



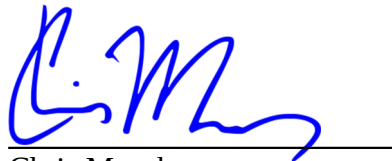
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



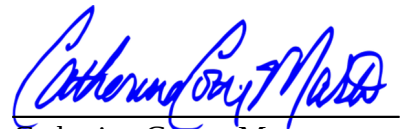
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Chris Murphy
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

/s/ Tina Smith

Tina Smith
United States Senator

/s/ Elizabeth Warren

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

/s/ Tammy Baldwin

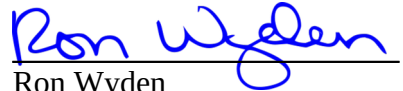
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



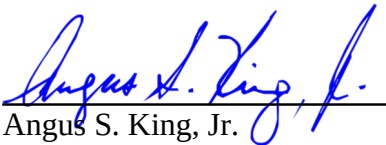
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

/s/ Debbie Stabenow

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

/s/ Gary C. Peters

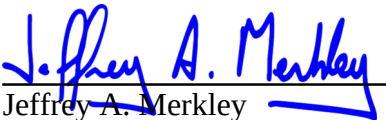
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

/s/ Dianne Feinstein

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

/s/ Michael F. Bennet

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

/s/ Jon Tester

John Tester
United States Senator

/s/ Thomas R. Carper

Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator