

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 16, 2019

The Honorable Alex M. Azar II
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C St SW
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Secretary Azar:


As state agencies prepare their Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (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 critical assistance during the cold winter and hot summer months. This funding has been an indispensable lifeline during challenging economic times, helping to ensure that recipients do not have to choose between paying their energy bills and paying for other necessities like food or medicine. On average, low-income families and seniors 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.


As states begin to provide assistance for this winter, it is critical that they have the resources to assist low-income households and seniors as soon as possible. Therefore, we request that you quickly release LIHEAP 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.

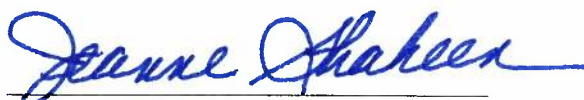
Sincerely,




Jack Reed
United States Senator



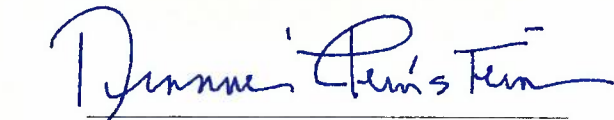
Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

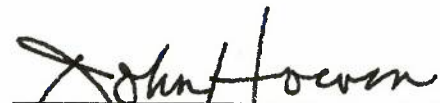



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator





Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

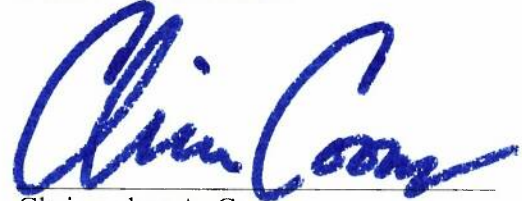

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator


John Hoeven
United States Senator


Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

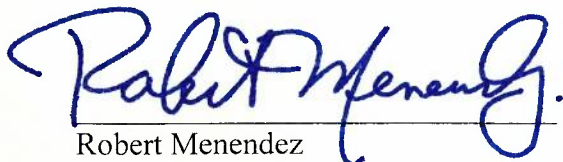

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

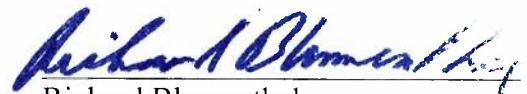

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

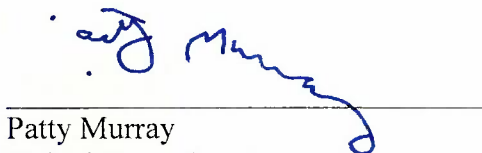

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

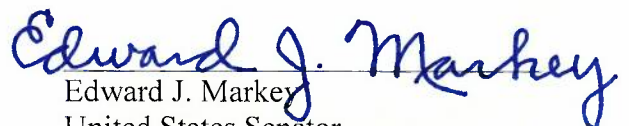

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator


Robert Menendez
United States Senator


Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator


Patty Murray
United States Senator


Edward J. Markey
United States Senator


Angus S. King Jr.
United States Senator

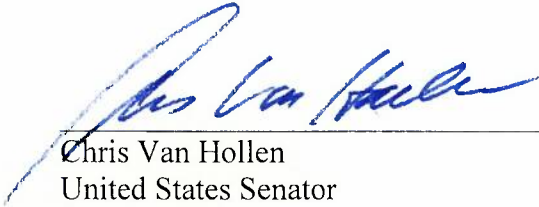

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



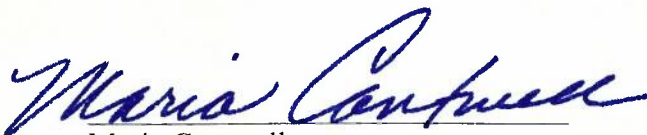
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



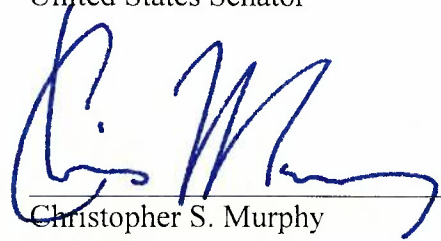
Tina Smith
United States Senator



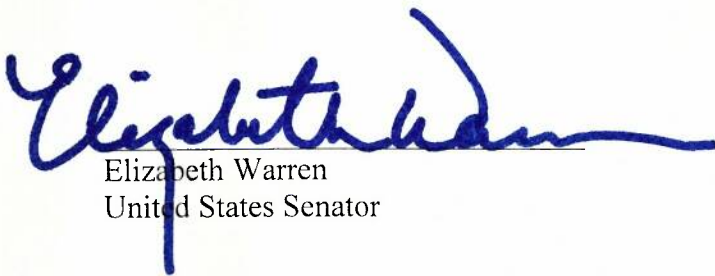
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



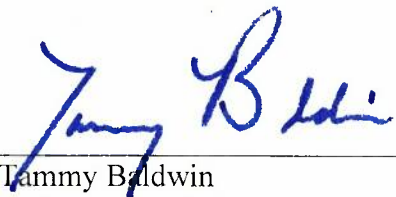
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



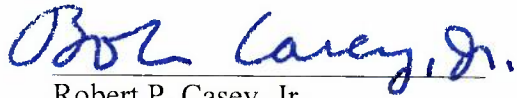
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



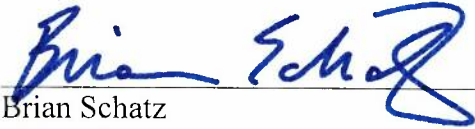
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



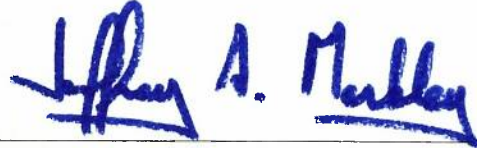
Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator




Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Jeff Merkley
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator