

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 18, 2017

The Honorable Thomas E. Price, M.D.
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C St SW
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Secretary Price:

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 the relevant state agencies 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,



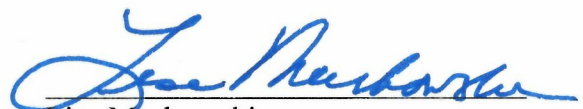
Jack Reed
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

John Hoeven

John Hoeven
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow

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United States Senator

Patrick Leahy

Patrick Leahy
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Gary Peters

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet

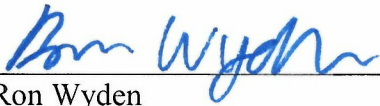
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Bob Casey, Jr.

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

Maria Cantwell

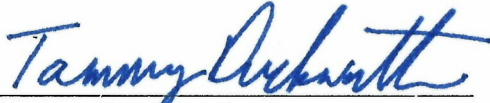
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



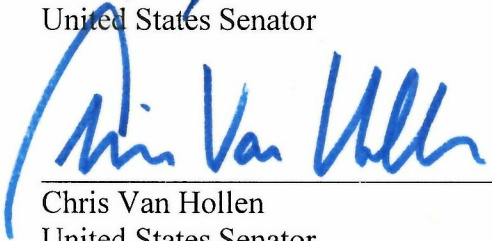
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



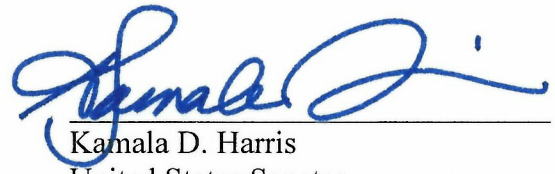
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



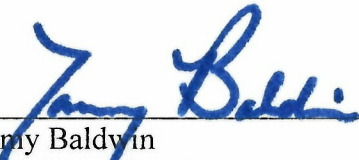
Al Franken
United States Senator



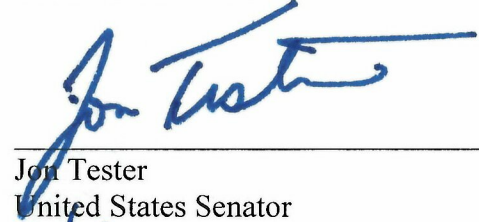
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



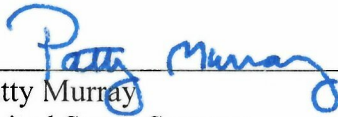
Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator



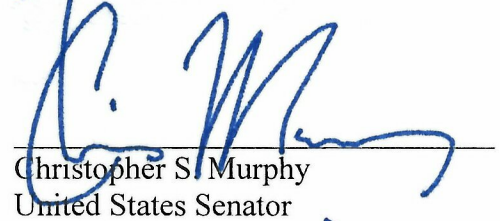
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator



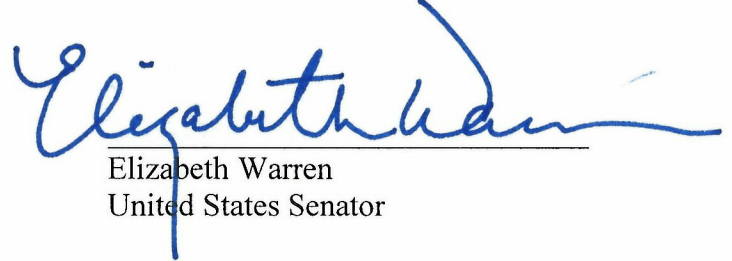
Patty Murray
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



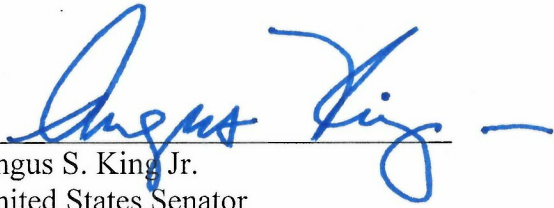
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



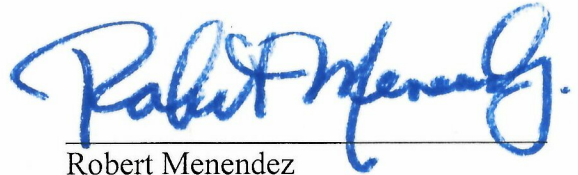
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator




Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Angus S. King Jr.
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator