

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20510**

April 26, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole,

We are writing to request that you prioritize the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in your Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 appropriations bill by including no less than \$4.7 billion for this program that provides critical support to our most vulnerable citizens.

LIHEAP helps some of the poorest families in the country with their energy bills by providing them with vital assistance during both the cold winter and hot summer months. According to the National Energy Assistance Director's Association (NEADA), nearly 90 percent of LIHEAP recipients have at least one household member who is a child, elderly, or disabled. For these households, LIHEAP funding has been a lifeline during challenging economic times. Access to affordable home energy is not a luxury – it is a matter of health and safety.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought the importance of energy security to the forefront of the national consciousness. Supplemental funding for utility assistance provided by recent emergency stimulus bills will help address arrearages for families struggling due to pandemic-related unemployment. However, these temporary supplemental funds will not address the ongoing need of millions of low-income households that had trouble making ends meet before COVID-19. Funding LIHEAP at \$4.7 billion in FY 2022 will ensure these low-income households do not once again fall through the cracks when the pandemic ends.

We also understand the discretionary budget challenges the Committee will be facing in FY 2022. However, LIHEAP is chronically underfunded. In recent years, the program has only had funds to serve one out of six eligible households. Even with supplemental emergency funds, the program will not be able to reach all households in need. Furthermore, the purchasing power of LIHEAP has been decreasing. While the average grant has remained at about \$550, the purchasing power of the grant has declined from about 65% of the cost of home heating to less than 50%, meaning that many low-income families and seniors will have fewer resources available to meet other basic needs.

As you finalize your FY 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we ask that you take into account the great need for LIHEAP. We urge you to reprioritize this program and restore funding to this program to a level no less than \$4.7 billion.

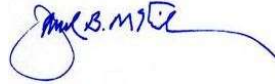
Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,



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PETER WELCH  
Member of Congress



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DAVID B. MCKINLEY, P.E.  
Member of Congress



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JAMES P. MCGOVERN  
Member of Congress



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ANDREW R. GARBARINO  
Member of Congress

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**Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, FY 2022**

**List of Signatories**

**April 26, 2021**

/s/ Stacey E. Plaskett	/s/ Mondaire Jones	/s/ Donald McEachi
/s/ Jerry McNerney	/s/ Ro Khanna	/s/ Jake Auchincloss
/s/ Paul D. Tonko	/s/ Filemon Vela	/s/ Don Young
/s/ Chris Pappas	/s/ Peter A. DeFazio	/s/ Sheila Jackson Lee
/s/ Jared Golden	/s/ Jason Crow	/s/ Elissa Slotkin
/s/ Joyce Beatty	/s/ Nydia M. Velázquez	/s/ John Katko
/s/ Jahana Hayes	/s/ Darin LaHood	/s/ Ann McLane Kuster
/s/ Anthony G. Brown	/s/ Frank Mrvan	/s/ Lizzie Fletcher
/s/ Donald M. Payne, Jr.	/s/ André Carson	/s/ Hakeem Jeffries
/s/ Vicente Gonzalez	/s/ Josh Gottheimer	/s/ Andy Kim
/s/ Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan	/s/ Ilhan Omar	/s/ John Garamendi
/s/ Tony Cárdenas	/s/ Dwight Evans	/s/ Joe Courtney
/s/ Danny K. Davis	/s/ Haley Stevens	/s/ Jim Himes
/s/ Veronica Escobar	/s/ Mark Takano	/s/ Nikema Williams
/s/ Jenniffer González-Colón	/s/ Jim Cooper	/s/ Jim Costa
/s/ Steve Cohen	/s/ Deborah K. Ross	/s/ Steven Horsford
/s/ Val Butler Demings	/s/ Grace F. Napolitano	/s/ Pete Stauber
/s/ James R. Langevin	/s/ Raul Ruiz, M.D.	/s/ Mike Doyle
/s/ Joseph D. Morelle	/s/ Brian Higgins	/s/ Albio Sires
/s/ Ted Deutch	/s/ Yvette D. Clarke	/s/ Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D
/s/ Rashida Tlaib	/s/ Seth Moulton	/s/ Bill Johnson
/s/ Bobby L. Rush	/s/ Richard E. Neal	/s/ Carol D. Miller
/s/ Rick Larsen	/s/ Brian Fitzpatrick	/s/ Thomas R. Suozzi
/s/ Jack Bergman	/s/ Jamie Raskin	/s/ Carolyn B. Maloney
/s/ Mark DeSaulnier	/s/ Colin Allred	/s/ Andy Levin
/s/ Emanuel Cleaver, II	/s/ Alan Lowenthal	/s/ Jerrold Nadler
/s/ Antonio Delgado	/s/ William R. Keating	/s/ Gregory W. Meeks
/s/ Gerald E. Connolly	/s/ Suzan K. DelBene	/s/ Kathleen M. Rice
/s/ Claudia Tenney	/s/ Joaquin Castro	/s/ Conor Lamb
/s/ Ron Kind	/s/ James E. Clyburn	/s/ Glenn "GT" Thompson
/s/ Frederica S. Wilson	/s/ Chris Jacobs	/s/ Teresa Leger Fernández
/s/ Mike Levin	/s/ Brendan F. Boyle	/s/ J. Luis Correa
/s/ Chrissy Houlahan	/s/ Elise M. Stefanik	/s/ G. K. Butterfield
/s/ John Yarmuth	/s/ Kim Schrier, M.D.	/s/ Linda T. Sanchez
/s/ Cheri Bustos	/s/ Doris Matsui	/s/ Nicole Malliotakis
/s/ David Scott	/s/ Alex X. Mooney	/s/ Jared Huffman
/s/ Jimmy Panetta	/s/ Michael R. Turner	/s/ Diana DeGette
/s/ Ruben Gallego	/s/ Marilyn Strickland	/s/ Bill Foster
/s/ Nanette Diaz Barragán	/s/ Eddie Bernice Johnson	/s/ Jan Schakowsky
/s/ Debbie Dingell	/s/ Madeleine Dean	/s/ John B. Larson
/s/ Juan Vargas	/s/ Kurt Schrader	/s/ Bill Pascrell, Jr.
/s/ Gwen S. Moore	/s/ Al Green	/s/ Julia Brownley
/s/ Kaiali'i Kahele	/s/ John P. Sarbanes	/s/ Salud Carbajal
/s/ Chellie Pingree	/s/ Jimmy Gomez	/s/ Maxine Waters
/s/ Lori Trahan	/s/ Pramila Jayapal	/s/ Scott H. Peters
/s/ Judy Chu	/s/ Terri A. Sewell	/s/ Sean Patrick Maloney
/s/ Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.	/s/ Adam Smith	/s/ Fred Keller
/s/ Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.	/s/ Earl Blumenauer	/s/ Raúl M. Grijalva
/s/ Jesús G. "Chuy" García	/s/ Suzanne Bonamici	