

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 16, 2026

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
Secretary of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy,

We write with concern following recent reporting that more than \$400 million in Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding has yet to be distributed to states. We appreciate the agency's responsiveness following last year's lapse in appropriations and all that was done to ensure LIHEAP funds were distributed expeditiously. We write once again to urge the agency to ensure all LIHEAP funds are delivered as quickly as possible to the nearly six million households that rely on this assistance.

The remaining undistributed LIHEAP funds represent roughly 10 percent of the \$4.45 billion allocated for Fiscal Year 2026. While we understand that the majority of LIHEAP funds are distributed in late fall, with the remaining percentage, usually around 10 percent, distributed the following year in late winter and early spring, states usually receive the entirety of their funds by the end of March. We are concerned that without a prompt disbursement of the remaining funds, states will run out of funds and be forced to halt assistance to households in immediate need.

Electricity costs have increased 13 percent over the past year, and crude oil prices have spiked more since the beginning of the year than in any quarter since 1988. With this past winter's record-setting cold temperatures across the United States, households and families need more support, not less.

While states do protect households with utility shut off moratoriums throughout the coldest months of the year, these moratoriums typically end by late March or early April. In New Hampshire, the "winter period" ends on March 31st, while in New York, protections against shut offs extend through April 15th.

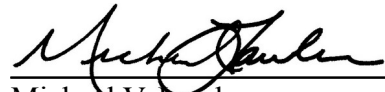
We additionally continue to have serious concerns about LIHEAP's capacity to operate effectively without dedicated staff. We urge you to ensure that necessary personnel and resources are in place to support LIHEAP's continued success.

We urge you to do everything possible to distribute LIHEAP funds to states and families without delay. Families should not have to choose between staying warm and other essential items like food, medication, or rent. We appreciate your attention on this urgent matter and stand ready to support the agency in assisting the American people.

Sincerely,



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



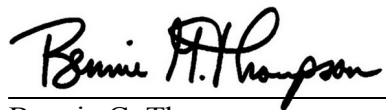
Michael V. Lawler
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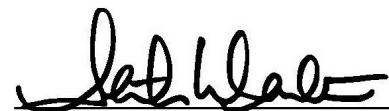
Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



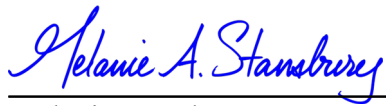
Nanette Diaz Barragán
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Brittany Pettersen
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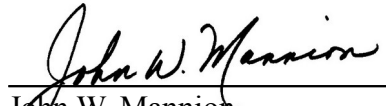
Seth Moulton
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Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



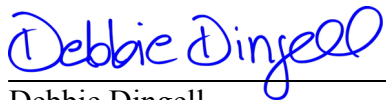
John Garamendi
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John W. Mannion
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Chrissy Houlahan
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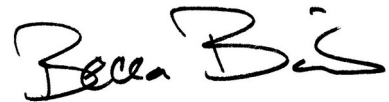
Debbie Dingell
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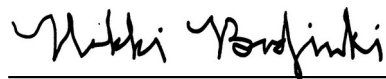
Becca Balint
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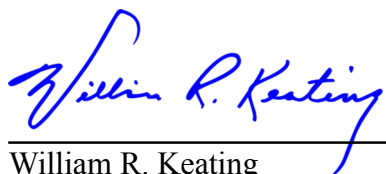
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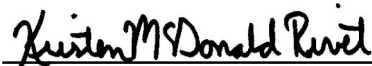
Nikki Budzinski
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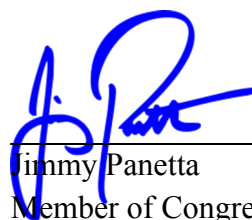
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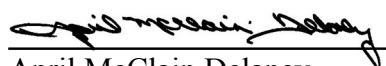
Dwight Evans
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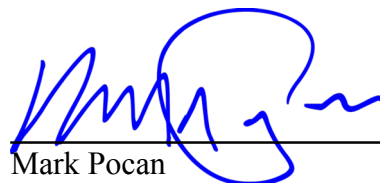
April McClain Delaney
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