

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 1, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell:

As you work to craft another recovery package to help Americans cope with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, we urgently request that you provide robust supplemental funding that reflects the increased need for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The LIHEAP program is well-positioned to quickly respond to, and support the needs of, millions of American households affected by the COVID-19 pandemic who are struggling to heat their homes this winter and cool their homes next summer.

State energy officials have reported that they are ready to move additional LIHEAP funds quickly and have identified a need for an additional \$10 billion to serve 11 million families, including newly-eligible households. Across the nation, utilities are reporting significant increases in the number of families falling behind on their utility bills. The National Energy Assistance Directors' Association estimates that 15 to 20 percent of residential customers are at least 60 days behind on their electric and natural gas bills.

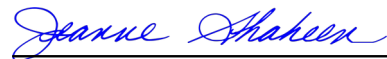
LIHEAP assistance is an indispensable lifeline, helping to ensure that recipients do not have to choose between paying their energy bills and affording other necessities like food and medicine. Yet the annual funding for LIHEAP is only able to provide benefits to approximately one in six eligible households. We appreciate the \$900 million included in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act for LIHEAP, but those funds are now fully obligated and additional funding is necessary to help the newly unemployed with their growing bills.

Thank you for your consideration of our request, and we look forward to working with you to support these important programs in this time of crisis.

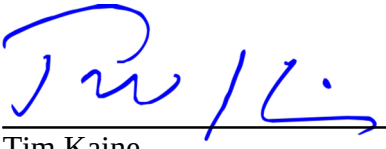
Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

/s/ Cory A. Booker

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



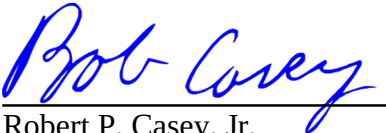
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

/s/ Tammy Baldwin

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

/s/ Debbie Stabenow

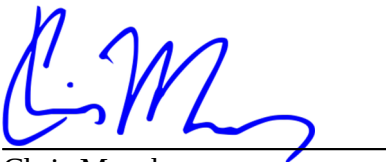
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Chris Murphy
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

/s/ Michael F. Bennet


Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



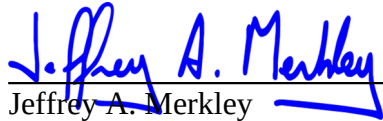
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

/s/ Jon Ossoff

Jon Ossoff
United States Senator

/s/ Richard Blumenthal

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

/s/ Mark Kelly

Mark Kelly
United States Senator

/s/ Raphael Warnock

Raphael Warnock
United States Senator

/s/ Robert Menendez

Robert Menendez
United States Senator



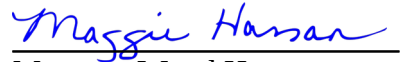
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



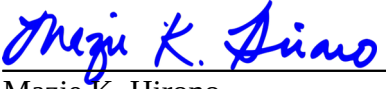
Tina Smith
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

/s/ Brian Schatz

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

/s/ Edward J. Markey

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

/s/ Dianne Feinstein

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

/s/ Elizabeth Warren

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

/s/ Alex Padilla

Alex Padilla
United States Senator

/s/ Gary C. Peters

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

/s/ Bernard Sanders

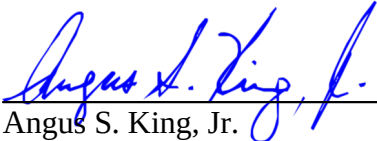
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

/s/ Ron Wyden

Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Ben Ray Luján
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

/s/ Maria Cantwell

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Tom Carper
United States Senator

/s/ Joe Manchin

Joe Manchin III
United States Senator