

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 3, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

We write regarding reports that you have terminated staff responsible for administering the Low-Income Home Energy Program (LIHEAP). If true, these terminations threaten to devastate a critical program dedicated to helping Americans afford their home energy bills.


For over 40 years, LIHEAP has been the main federal program that helps low-income households and seniors pay their energy bills, providing vital assistance during both the cold winter and hot summer months. Each year, more than six million households across the country rely on LIHEAP to afford their energy bills. It 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.

We are concerned that the reported staff terminations will undermine the HHS's ability to deliver this critical funding to low-income seniors and families. We are also concerned that the local community action agencies that help enroll qualified beneficiaries could be weakened by other actions and funding cuts being undertaken by HHS and the "Department of Government Efficiency" (DOGE). As you know, our states are expecting HHS to release nearly \$400 million in FY25 funding later this month. Any delay in providing this funding will set back efforts to provide summer cooling grants, weatherize low-income homes, and plan for the next winter heating season.

Access to affordable home energy is a matter of health and safety for many low-income households, children, and seniors. To that end, we urge you to reverse course on any staffing or funding cuts that would jeopardize the distribution of these funds to our constituents.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



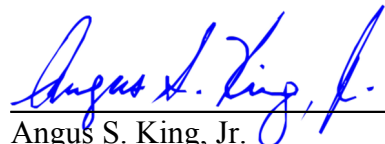
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United States Senator



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



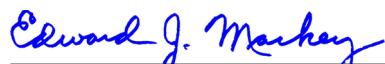
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



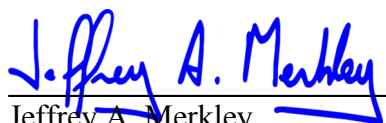
Richard J. Durbin
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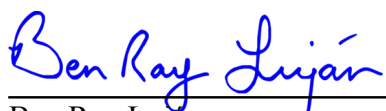
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Ben Ray Lujan
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