

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 10 2012

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius  
Secretary  
United States Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a vital safety net for many low-income families, especially for our elderly, our disabled, and our veterans. As state agencies prepare their LIHEAP programs for the coming winter, it is imperative that the Department of Health and Human Services immediately release as much LIHEAP funding as possible under the current continuing resolution (CR).

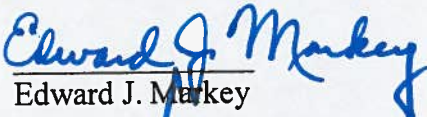
As you know, spending patterns for LIHEAP assistance are not consistent throughout the fiscal year. Instead, the majority of assistance in many states is distributed during the winter months to offset high home heating costs. Many state governors have also projected that delays in LIHEAP funding would result in families across the country having unmet heating needs this winter. As you are also aware, low-income families spend a higher percentage of their income on energy costs. This is especially true during times of extreme temperatures and increased energy prices. October marks the beginning of the coldest months for many families, and with continued elevated levels of unemployment across our states, this year's heating season will be an even greater struggle. The timing is crucial for the release of the majority of LIHEAP funding.

Accordingly, we believe it is critical that the states begin the process of assisting those individuals with the greatest needs immediately. We request that you release as much LIHEAP funding as possible under the current CR without delay, in order to allow states and low-income households the resources they need to prepare for a challenging winter. With forecasts for above-normal snowfall for all major I-95 cities, including New York City, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, the timing is critical.

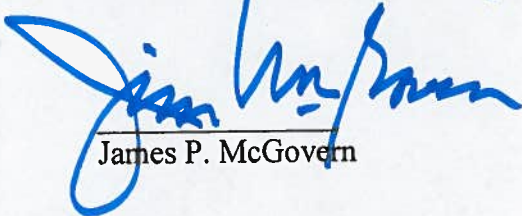
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LIHEAP Letter to HHS

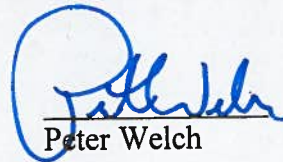
Thank you for your continued support of the LIHEAP program and for your consideration of this request.

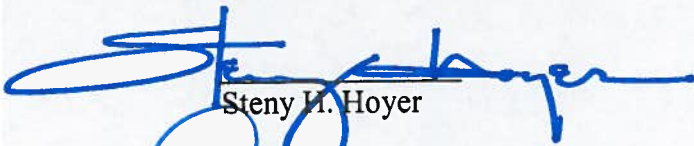
Sincerely,

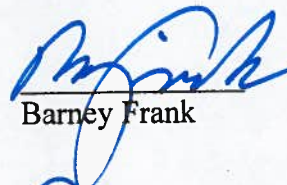
  
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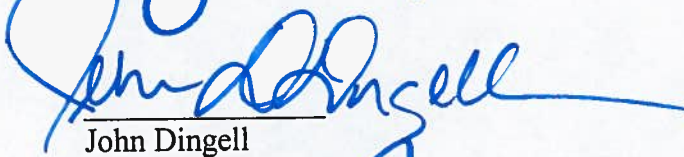
  
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James P. McGovern

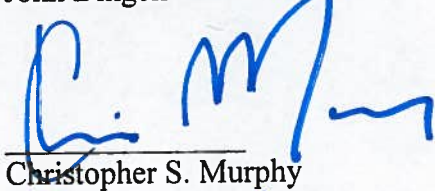
  
Peter Welch

  
Steny H. Hoyer

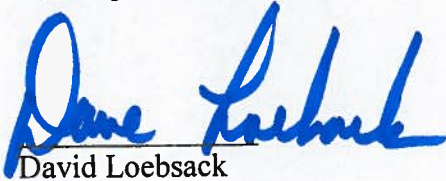
  
Barney Frank

  
John Dingell

  
Chellie Pingree

  
Christopher S. Murphy

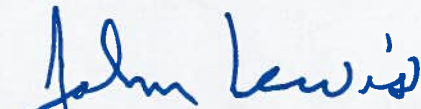
  
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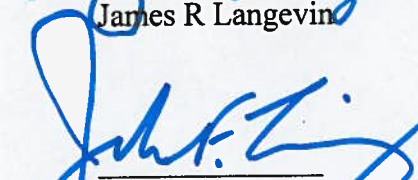
  
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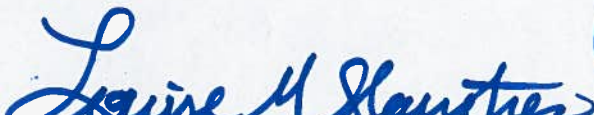
  
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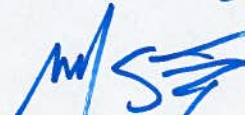
  
Diana DeGette

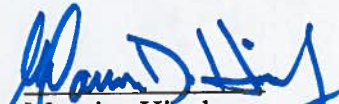
  
James R. Langevin


  
John Lewis

  
John Tierney

  
Louise Slaughter


  
Mark Critz


  
Maurice Hinchey

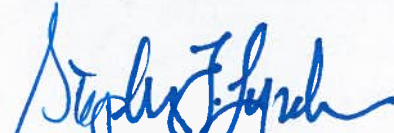
  
Michael E. Capuano

  
Mike Doyle

  
Mike Michaud

  
Luis Gutierrez

  
John A. Yarmuth

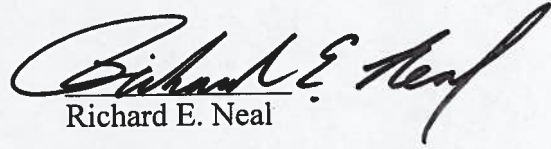
  
Stephen F. Lynch

  
Chris Van Hollen

  
Niki Tsongas

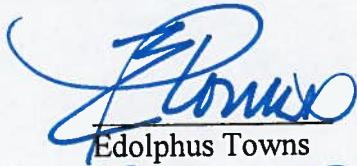
  
John Olver

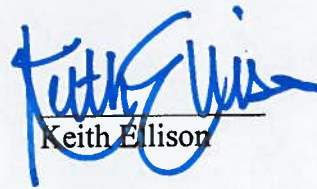
  
Raul Grijalva

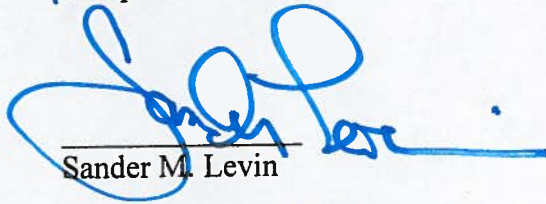
  
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Steve Israel

  
William R. Keating

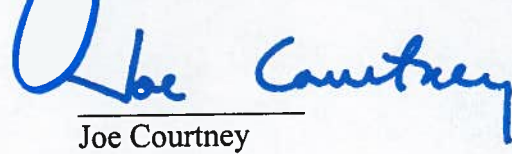
  
Edolphus Towns

  
Keith Ellison

  
Sander M. Levin

  
Jan Schakowsky

  
Hansen Clarke

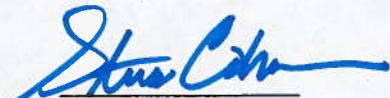
  
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Dutch Ruppersberger

  
Carolyn McCarthy

  
Charles B. Rangel

  
Rush D. Holt

  
Steve Cohen

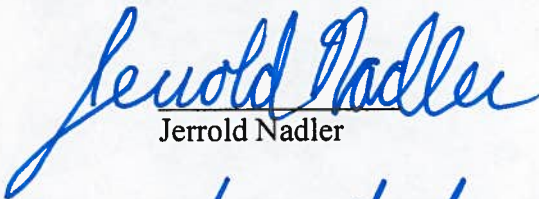
  
Donna Edwards

  
Lou Barletta

  
Eleanor Holmes Norton


  
Gary Peters

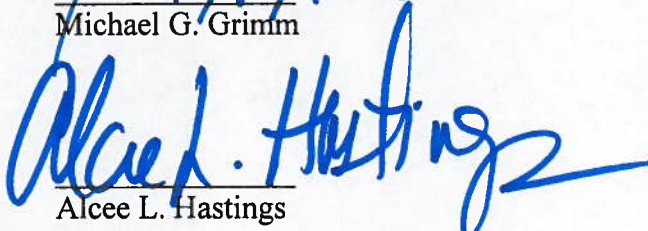
  
Rick Larsen

  
Jerrold Nadler

  
Marcia L. Fudge

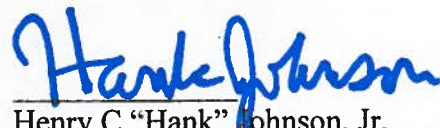
  
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Frank C. Guinta

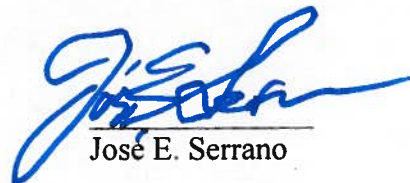
  
Alcee L. Hastings

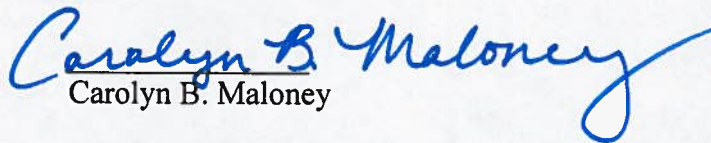
  
Michael M. Honda

  
Sheila Jackson Lee

  
Henry C "Hank" Johnson, Jr.

  
Peter T. King

  
José E. Serrano

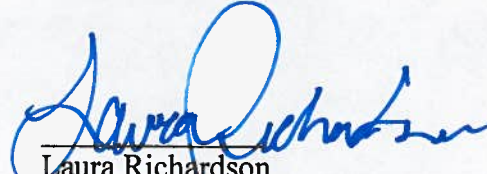
  
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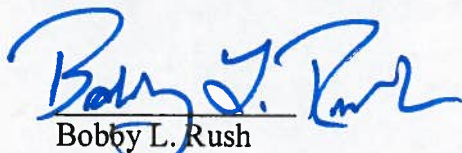
  
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James P. Moran

  
Todd Russell Platts

  
Mike Quigley

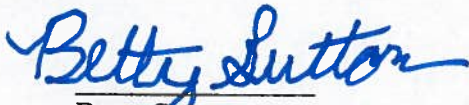
  
Laura Richardson

  
Bobby L. Rush


  
Tim Ryan

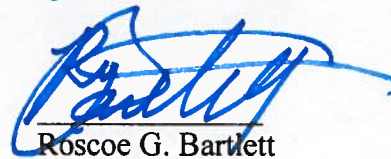
  
Loretta Sanchez

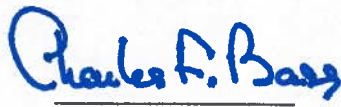
  
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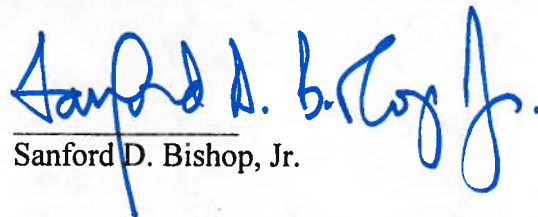
  
Betty Sutton

  
Jason Altmire

  
Ron Barber

  
Roscoe G. Bartlett

  
Charles F. Bass

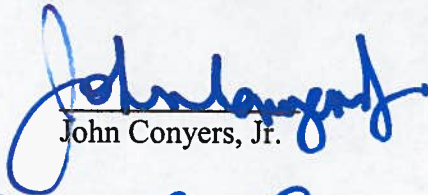
  
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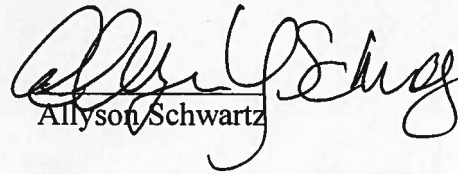
  
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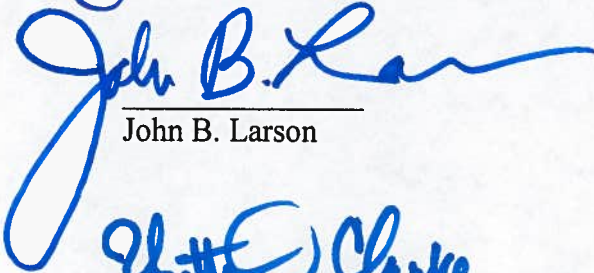
  
Dale E. Kildee

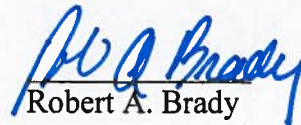
  
Bennie G. Thompson

  
Silvestre Reyes

  
John Conyers, Jr.

  
Allyson Schwartz

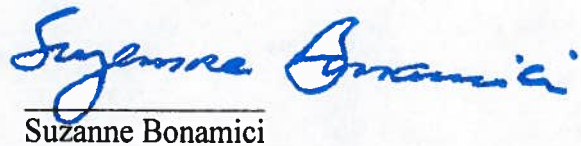
  
John B. Larson

  
Robert A. Brady

  
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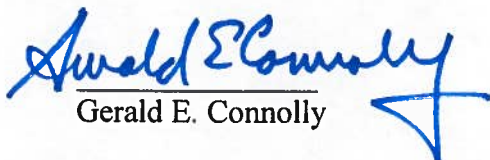
  
William Owens

  
Gwen Moore

  
Suzanne Bonamici

  
Dennis J. Kucinich

  
Paul D. Tonko

  
Gerald E. Connolly

  
Rosa DeLauro