

April 20, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwomen DeLauro and Murray and Ranking Members Cole and Blunt:

The National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition (NEUAC) is a nationwide alliance of like-minded advocates committed to heightening the awareness of energy insecurity and effects of energy poverty. Our members represent the voices of more than 42 million households that [struggle to afford the basics](#), including safe and healthy homes with access to life-critical energy and water resources.

On behalf of an increasing number of families nationwide struggling to pay their energy bills and maintain fuel services during a time of unprecedented economic upheaval, NEUAC and our dedicated utility trade partners urge you to fund the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) at \$5.1 billion with a \$500 million contingency fund for emergencies in the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. Now more than ever, it is critical to provide a safety net for our most vulnerable American families.

In order to address the rising needs for both energy and water access, we also respectfully request that water assistance be funded through the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations in order to maximize household benefits to eligible households. It is critical that eligible households not be forced to choose between water and energy assistance.

LIHEAP, the federal government's flagship program for addressing energy affordability, is tremendously underfunded. According to the most recent data available by the US Department of Health and Human Services, [LIHEAP is able to serve just 17% of eligible households](#) with current resources.

Respectfully, NEUAC and its trade association members ask that Congress maximize funding for LIHEAP at \$5.1 billion in FY23, fund the LIHEAP emergency contingency program to help avert crises arising from natural disasters and unexpected price increases, and create a separate funding appropriation for a permanent water assistance program.

Thank you for your perseverance on energy affordability and consideration for vulnerable households when establishing a budget for appropriations.

Regards,



Katrina Metzler, Executive Director

The National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition

