



May 14, 2025

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education
United States House of Representatives
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education
United States House of Representatives
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

On behalf of the American Gas Association and the Edison Electric Institute, the national trade associations representing electric and natural gas companies serving households across the country, we write to urge you to protect and, where possible, expand funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

For more than 40 years, LIHEAP has helped seniors, families with young children, and individuals with disabilities maintain safe and reliable access to home heating and cooling. Despite its critical role, the program is chronically underfunded, reaching only about one in six eligible households in recent years. The average limited-income household pays an energy burden three times higher than other households. In the past year alone, nearly 27% of Americans reported reducing or forgoing basic needs like food or medicine to cover their energy bills.¹

LIHEAP is an efficient, targeted federal block grant program that channels funds through states to local agencies. It delivers short-term assistance directly to households in need, prevents disconnections, and offsets heating and cooling costs. In FY 2023, nearly 6 million households received LIHEAP assistance, and the program restored power or prevented disconnection 2.76 million times.² Three out of 10 LIHEAP households include someone vulnerable to extreme temperatures due to age or disability.³ Continued bipartisan support for the program will ensure that households at the lowest levels of poverty, seniors, and other vulnerable populations receive the critical assistance they need and are not left behind.

We recognize the discretionary budget challenges Congress faces this year. At the same time, we also want to raise awareness of recent staffing changes at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that could disrupt the timely and effective delivery of LIHEAP assistance. We are concerned that any changes could affect the agency's ability to fulfill its

¹ <https://www.helpadvisor.com/housing/americans-struggling-to-pay-energy-bills-study>

² <https://neuac.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/LIHEAP-Talking-Points-updated-7.1.24.pdf>

³ <https://neuac.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/liheapsurvey2018.pdf>

statutory obligation to release funds to states in a timely manner, potentially limiting states' capacity to serve eligible households effectively.

Furthermore, reductions to the program appear to conflict with the goals of the President's Executive Order 4154, *Unleashing American Energy*, which emphasizes promoting access to affordable, reliable energy for all Americans. LIHEAP is a cornerstone of that mission, helping the most vulnerable households maintain service and supporting the stability of the broader energy system.

As the committee starts drafting the FY 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we urge you to prioritize strong LIHEAP funding and to ensure the administrative infrastructure is in place to carry out this essential program.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



Karen Harbert
President & CEO
American Gas Association



Pat Vicent-Collawn
Interim President and CEO
Edison Electric Institute