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Congress of the United States
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October 27, 2025

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary
Budget
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

The Honorable Russell Vought
Director of the Office of Management and
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Secretary Kennedy and Director Vought:

I am writing to urge the Administration to prioritize continuous funding of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) through the government shutdown.

LIHEAP is a crucial program for families in my district and across the country to have the ability to afford heating and cooling. According to the US Department of Health and Human Services, at least 70 percent of LIHEAP households report that at least one household member who is age five or younger, 60 or older, or has a disability. Vulnerable families and seniors will have to make painful decisions surrounding their utilities as we enter the winter season. No household should have to choose between keeping their homes safe temperatures, basic health care, or having food on the table.

LIHEAP is an efficient and targeted program, with state block grants flowing to local agencies to eligible households on a short-term basis to prevent utility disconnections or provide assistance with the cost of heating and cooling their homes. As energy costs have continued to rise in recent years, the number of families struggling to afford utilities has grown. Dramatic changes in temperatures and related weather events have also increased demand for this program, as more households are exposed to severe fluctuation of hot and cold temperatures. The CDC recorded over 2,000 heat related fatalities in 2023 alone.

With this in mind, I respectfully ask the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Management and Budget provide a response to the following questions:

1. How many households may be impacted by this lapse in funding?

2. Are your agencies working with or monitoring state governments and utility companies to coordinate alternative options for households in need of heat as we approach the winter months?

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Fitzpatrick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress