

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 22, 2017

The Hon. Thomas E. Price
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Price,

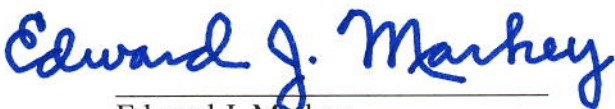
Now that Congress has passed an omnibus funding bill for the entire 2017 fiscal year (FY2017), we write to ask that you immediately release the remaining ten percent of LIHEAP funding.

The LIHEAP program is wildly successful and vitally important to millions of families across the country and hundreds of thousands in our state of Massachusetts. LIHEAP funding helps the neediest and most vulnerable families. According to a Congressional Research Service (CRS) review of data from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), roughly 33 percent of households receiving LIHEAP assistance had at least one member 60 years of age or older, and 38 percent of households had at least one member with a disability.¹ Nineteen percent of households included at least one child five years of age or younger. An estimated 74 percent of households receiving LIHEAP assistance were in at least one of the three categories.² According to the National Energy Assistance Directors' Association (NEADA), these trends continue to persist. NEADA data shows that 70 percent of households receiving LIHEAP assistance in FY2016 had at least one member who is elderly, disabled, or a young child.

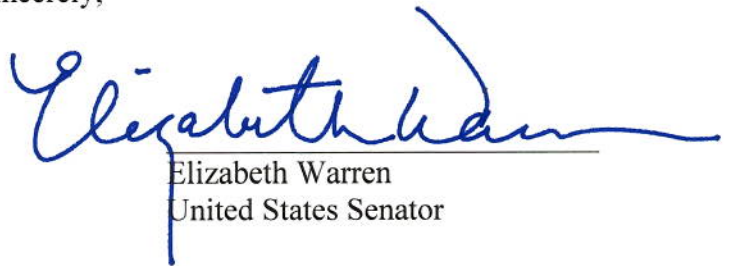
Ninety percent of the appropriated LIHEAP funding for FY2017 was released by the Department of Health and Human Services on October 25, 2016. Now that Congress has passed a funding bill for the entire fiscal year, there is no reason why the final LIHEAP funding should not be released immediately. We therefore request that you take immediate action to release this year's remaining LIHEAP funding.

We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

¹ Data is for the most recent year in which HHS data is available (FY2014)

² Congressional Research Service, "LIHEAP: Program and Funding," Libby Perl, January 11, 2017.