



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
COMMONWEALTH KEYSTONE BUILDING
400 NORTH STREET
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120

September 2, 2025

Dear Members of the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation:

Commissioners of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission thank you for preserving the remaining \$19 million in LIHEAP funding that was allocated to Pennsylvania for the 2024-2025 heating season. We urge Congress to support the highest level of funding possible for LIHEAP in Fiscal Year 2026 and to protect LIHEAP from any reductions that would jeopardize Pennsylvania families in their homes this winter. This funding is essential because the rising costs of basic human needs, including high energy costs, are making it more difficult for many Americans to heat their homes. Recently reported data shows that nearly 27% percent of Americans have reduced or eliminated expenses for food and medicine so they could afford to pay their energy bill.¹

During the 2024-2025 heating season, LIHEAP funding was vital in helping 230,515 Pennsylvania households stay safe and warm. LIHEAP provided over \$152 million in aid to Pennsylvania's most vulnerable citizens – \$85,326,745 to 292,854 utility customers through Cash Grants and \$67,055,553 to 127,944 households through Crisis Grants. LIHEAP funds are, in many instances, the only source of funding available to help our senior citizens, children, and individuals with disabilities and severe illnesses maintain or restore their heating services. During the 2024-2025 heating season, approximately 46,000 electric and natural gas customers were able to avoid service terminations and maintain service through the receipt of LIHEAP grants. Lack of access to safe utility heating sources can expose Pennsylvania households to extreme heat or cold, resulting in significant health risks, including death. Pennsylvania households may also turn to unsafe heating alternatives that could put them at greater risk for carbon monoxide poisoning and fires, among other things.

Because LIHEAP enables eligible households to pay their energy bills and maintain essential heating services, it decreases the number of unpaid accounts and arrearages, stabilizes utility company revenue, and reduces the need for rate increases that impact all customers. Pennsylvania also uses LIHEAP funds to support weatherization and energy-saving upgrades that result in reduced demand on the energy grid to keep energy prices stable.

Accordingly, we ask you to maximize and protect the amount of funding available for LIHEAP in Fiscal Year 2026. Every dollar of regular appropriation is critical to maintaining access to energy for qualifying Pennsylvania families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen M. DeFrank".

Stephen M. DeFrank
Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimberly M. Barrow".

Kimberly M. Barrow
Vice Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathryn L. Zerkus".

Kathryn L. Zerkus
Commissioner

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