

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 17, 2017

Hon. Tom Cole, Chairman
Hon. Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human Services, Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

As you finalize the fiscal year (FY) 2017 and begin drafting the FY 2018 Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we once again urge you to remedy a long-standing inequality in the distribution of U.S. Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds.

LIHEAP is America's primary heating and cooling assistance program. The program affords eligible households, especially those sheltering elderly, disabled, or preschoolers, an opportunity to secure potentially life-saving help. However, due to language overriding LIHEAP's statutorily-specified allocation process, your states and ours are deprived of their full share of these much needed resources.

The effect of this overriding language remains profoundly damaging. While one advantaged state is capable of serving half of its LIHEAP-eligible households, Arizona reaches just five percent of our at-risk households.

The FY17 language approved by the House Appropriations Committee and reported to the House floor was a good first step. Going forward, we request that you eliminate this harmful diversion of LIHEAP appropriations and ask you to ensure that future LIHEAP funding adheres to the requirements of its enabling law.

Most sincerely,

Trent Franks
United States Congress

Paul Gosar
United States Congress

Andy Biggs
United States Congress

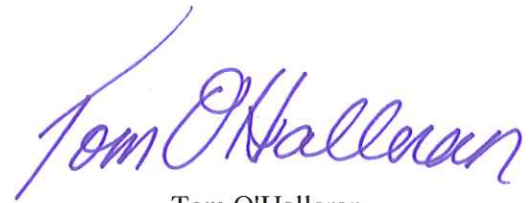
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