

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 24, 2016

The Honorable Sylvia Burwell  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Burwell:

We write to express our concern over the continued delay in the release of the final Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds allotted for the 2016 fiscal year. We have heard from numerous individuals and organizations throughout Massachusetts who need LIHEAP to help pay for energy costs year round. It is critically important to the well-being of Massachusetts residents that you release the remaining LIHEAP balance in full as soon as possible.

LIHEAP is a vital safety net for low-income families, our elderly, our veterans, and our disabled. As you know, LIHEAP has distributed ninety percent of the funds designated for the 2016 fiscal year. However, the final ten percent has yet to reach our underserved communities in need. In the 2015 fiscal year, the final LIHEAP payment was issued in January. We are now well into March - a month that has included significant cold weather and snowfall in Massachusetts - and we are troubled by the prolonged delay. We urge the Department of Health and Human Services to release the final LIHEAP allotment for the 2016 fiscal year as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support of the LIHEAP program. We appreciate your consideration of our concerns, and we look forward to timely action.

Sincerely,



ELIZABETH WARREN  
U.S. Senator



EDWARD J. MARKEY  
U.S. Senator



WILLIAM R. KEATING  
Member of Congress



JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, III  
Member of Congress