

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 24, 2025

The Honorable Robert Kennedy Jr.
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

We write to stress the importance of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and to urge your Department to ensure that funds are distributed swiftly and equitably as New Mexico families prepare for colder temperatures this winter.

In communities across our state, families are struggling to afford rising energy costs. As winter approaches, many households face difficult choices between paying their heating bills and covering other basic needs like groceries, rent, or prescription drugs. For New Mexicans living on fixed incomes, especially seniors, families with young children, and those in rural and Tribal areas, LIHEAP can mean the difference between safety and crisis.

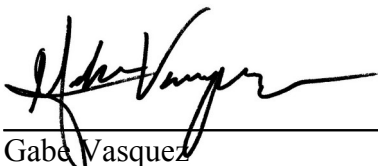
Nationwide, LIHEAP provides energy assistance for more than 5 million households, including over 2.5 million households with an older adult, nearly 1 million with a child, and more than 2 million with a person with a disability. In New Mexico alone, more than 200,000 households are eligible, yet only about 46,000 households received assistance last year.¹ In FY2024, LIHEAP provided over \$22 million in energy relief to New Mexico families, helping them avoid disconnections, reduce energy debt, and stay safe during periods of extreme cold.

Energy costs are rising sharply. The average yearly energy bill in New Mexico is projected to increase from \$1,110 to \$1,200 this year - an 8.1% rise over one year.² Without timely access to LIHEAP assistance, too many New Mexicans will be forced to endure unsafe temperatures or take on additional debt just to keep their homes warm.

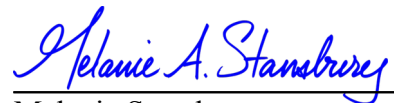
LIHEAP has long enjoyed broad, bipartisan support because it delivers real results for working families. The program not only helps prevent utility shutoffs but also strengthens public health and keeps local economies stable during periods of high energy demand. States across the country are facing delays in distributing LIHEAP funds, leaving millions of households vulnerable at the very moment they need assistance most. Ensuring that funds reach states, Tribes, and local partners without delay will allow New Mexicans to stay safe, warm, and healthy through the winter months ahead.

We urge your Department to act immediately to deliver this essential support to New Mexico households before temperatures drop further. Any delay in distributing LIHEAP funds will leave families at risk of unsafe living conditions and mounting utility debt. New Mexicans cannot afford inaction on a program that keeps the heat on and saves lives.

Sincerely,



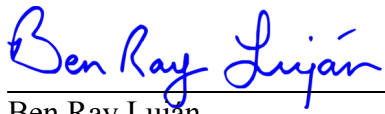
Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



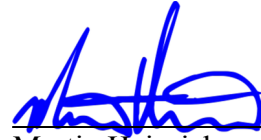
Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress

¹ https://liheappm.acf.gov/sites/default/files/private/congress/profiles/2024/FY2024_New_Mexico_Profile.pdf

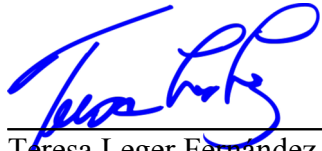
² https://www.jec.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/22e24fd6-4db7-44c6-93a9-9710c6f48b85/electricity-bills-report.pdf



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Teresa Leger Fernandez
Member of Congress