

October 31, 2025

Dear Chair DeFrank, Vice Chair Barrow, Commissioners Zerfuss, Coleman, and Yanora, and Pennsylvania utility company CEOs,

As members of the Pennsylvania House Democratic Caucus, we are deeply concerned about the delayed (Dec. 3) opening of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and its impact on our most vulnerable constituents.

The 2024-2025 LIHEAP program year served more than 302,000 Pennsylvania households, including over 150,000 seniors, families with children under 5 and individuals with a disability by December 2024. Over 15,000 crisis grants were issued in the month of November alone to prevent the imminent loss of heat to Pennsylvania homes. Without the program next month, these neighbors will be left in the cold.

Due to the rising cost of utility bills and increasingly frequent extreme weather, we anticipate an even greater number of households are at risk for termination this year. One in five Pennsylvania households report problems paying their bills, and over 260,000 Pennsylvania households experienced a gas or electric shutoff before September this year.

Facing terminations, low-income households may choose to rely on dangerous space heaters or open ovens to warm their homes, forgo other expenses to pay utility bills, or go without heat entirely in potentially fatal temperatures. For so many of our most vulnerable neighbors, this program is literally lifesaving.

We have an obligation and a responsibility to keep our constituents safe. The delayed opening of the LIHEAP program poses a danger to hundreds of thousands of economically and medically vulnerable Pennsylvanians. They should not suffer without this critical utility service due to political gridlock.


**For these reasons, we urge the PUC to require utilities to pause the termination of heat-related services for LIHEAP-eligible households until the program reopens.**

**We also specifically call on all utilities to agree to pause terminations of heat-related services, to work with all low-income households to restore service if already disconnected, and to make available their customer assistance programs or equitable payment arrangements to allow households to remain connected.**

Sincerely,



**Rep. Elizabeth Fiedler**  
Majority Chair, House Energy Committee  
Pennsylvania State House District 184



**Rep. Danilo Burgos**  
Majority Chairman, Consumer Protection,  
Technology & Utilities Committee  
Pennsylvania State House District 197



**Rep. Robert Matzie**  
Majority Caucus Chairman  
Pennsylvania State House District 16

**Rep. Joanna McClinton**  
Speaker of the House  
Pennsylvania State House District 191

**Rep. Kyle J. Mullins**  
Pennsylvania State House District 112

**Rep. Jennifer O'Mara**  
Pennsylvania State House District 165

**Rep. Morgan Cephas**  
Pennsylvania State House District 192

**Rep. Robert Merski**  
Pennsylvania State House District 2

**Rep. Aerion Abney**  
Pennsylvania State House District 19

**Rep. Manuel Guzman Jr**  
Pennsylvania State House District 127

**Rep. Joe Hohenstein**  
Pennsylvania State House District 177

**Rep. Steven R. Malagari**  
Pennsylvania State House District 53

**Rep. Dan Frankel**  
Pennsylvania State House District 23

**Rep. Mary Jo Daley**  
Pennsylvania State House District 148

**Rep. Heather Boyd**  
Pennsylvania State House District 163

**Rep. Arvind Venkat**  
Pennsylvania State House District 30

**Rep. Carol Kazeem**  
Pennsylvania State House District 159

**Rep. Chris Rabb**  
Pennsylvania State House District 200

**Rep. Jose Giral**  
Pennsylvania State House District 180

**Rep. Nate Davidson**  
Pennsylvania State House District 103

**Rep. Patrick Harkins**  
Pennsylvania State House District 1

**Rep. Paul Takac**  
Pennsylvania State House District 82

**Rep. Mary Isaacson**  
Pennsylvania State House District 175

**Rep. Justin Fleming**  
Pennsylvania State House District 105

**Rep. Dan Miller**  
Pennsylvania State House District 42

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Pennsylvania State House District 162

**Rep. Lindsay Powell**  
Pennsylvania State House District 21

**Rep. Dave Madsen**  
Pennsylvania State House District 102

**Rep. Dan Goughnour**  
Pennsylvania State House District 35

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Pennsylvania State House District 157

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Pennsylvania State House District 118

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Pennsylvania State House District 36

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Pennsylvania State House District 198

**Rep. Dan Williams**  
Pennsylvania State House District 74

**Rep. Tina Davis**  
Pennsylvania State House District 141

**Rep. Lisa Borowski**  
Pennsylvania State House District 168

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Pennsylvania State House District 150

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Pennsylvania State House District 155

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Pennsylvania State House District 152

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Pennsylvania State House District 154

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Pennsylvania State House District 135

**Rep. Maureen Madden**  
Pennsylvania State House District 115

**Rep. Brandon Markosek**  
Pennsylvania State House District 25

**Rep. Mandy Steele**  
Pennsylvania State House District 33

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**Rep. Chris Pielli**  
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**Rep. Tarah Probst**  
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Pennsylvania State House District 114

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Pennsylvania State House District 167

**Rep. Joseph Ciresi**  
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**Rep. La'Tasha Mayes**  
Pennsylvania State House District 24

**Rep. Perry Warren**  
Pennsylvania State House District 31

**Rep. Tim Brennan**  
Pennsylvania State House District 29

**Rep. Pat Gallagher**  
Pennsylvania State House District 173

**Rep. Sean Dougherty**  
Pennsylvania State House District 172

**Rep. Greg Scott**  
Pennsylvania State House District 54

**Rep. Malcolm Kenyatta**  
Pennsylvania State House District 181

CC: Andy Tubbs, President & CEO, Energy  
Association of Pennsylvania