

**Subject:** LIHEAP Coalition Alert: Multi-Group Sign-On Letter to Support Increased Funding in the FY 2008 Labor-HHS-Education spending bill (contains LIHEAP). Deadline is today for groups to sign on.

**Importance:** High

THE LIHEAP COALITION

Organizations and companies supporting the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

TO: LIHEAP Coalition Members  
FROM: LIHEAP Coalition Co-Chairs  
Date: October 17, 2007

**RE: LIHEAP Coalition Alert: Multi-Group Sign-On Letter to Support Increased Funding in the FY 2008 Labor-HHS-Education spending bill (contains LIHEAP). **Deadline is today, 10/17/07, for groups to sign on.****

We wanted to alert you to a broad-based effort to protect increased funding levels in the FY 2008 Labor-HHS-Education spending bill that is expected to reach the Senate floor today. The President has already issued a veto threat on this bill due to a disagreement over Congress's proposed increased spending levels over his proposed budget. The Labor-HHS-Education spending bills covers funding for LIHEAP and a broad array of health, education and social service programs.

The House has already passed the FY 2008 Labor-HHS-Education spending bill, so the focus of this broad-based effort is to press for passage of the bill in the Senate, to keep the pressure on when the spending bill is in conference and then to urge the President to sign the spending bill through a series of three joint sign-on letters.

**A copy of the Joint Letter is attached below and the instructions for signing on to the letter are also enclosed in the alert in blue below. The LIHEAP Coalition is not organizing the letter, but we thought it was important to let you know of this larger effort. The deadline for the first letter is today at 5:00 Eastern Daylight time.**

**As of today at 11AM, 282 organizations have signed on to the joint letter...WE NEED YOUR HELP!!**

**THE SENATE IS EXPECTED TO INTRODUCE THE  
FY08 LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS**

**1  
BILL TODAY**

**PLEASE SIGN ON TO THE FOLLOWING JOINT LETTER  
WITH OTHER LABOR, HEALTH AND EDUCATION  
GROUPS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY  
AND LET'S SEND A CLEAR MESSAGE TO  
CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT**

*Due to the complexity of coordinating these joint letters, please note that if you agree to sign onto to the first letter, you are agreeing to sign onto the second and third letters. We understand that some organizations may have some concerns with this plan, so if you think you cannot agree to sign on to the second and third letters, please indicate so in your email stating, "SENATE ONLY"*

*All letters will have the same general message and will be slightly edited as we move through the process.*

Our strategy is to send a total of three letters:

- 1 The first letter will be sent to the entire Senate urging passage of the FY08 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill that increases overall funding above the FY 2007 levels for critical programs.
- 2 The second letter will be sent to the entire House and Senate urging passage of the conference report that reflects the labor, health and education communities' funding needs.
- 3 The third letter will be sent to the President urging him to sign the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill.

**EMAIL JASON SAKRAN AT**

[JOINTLETTER@CEF.ORG](mailto:JOINTLETTER@CEF.ORG)

**THE DEADLINE HAD BEEN EXTENDED TO WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17<sup>TH</sup> AT 5:00 PM**

**IN YOUR EMAIL PLEASE INCLUDE:**

- 1 **YOUR ORGANIZATION NAME**
- 2 **CONTACT PERSON**

**IF YOU MISS THE DEADLINE FOR THE FIRST LETTER, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SEND US YOUR INFORMATION AND WE WILL INCLUDE YOU IN ANY REMAINING LETTERS.**

October 17, 2007

Dear Senator,

The undersigned education, training, disability, public health, medical research, child welfare organization labor unions representing the full range of stakeholders in the programs of the Departments of Education, Health and Human Services and Labor, urge you to vote in favor of the FY 2008 Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations bill that increases overall funding above the FY 2007 level for critically important programs.

The programs and services administered by the Departments of Health and Human Services, Education, and Labor serve a broad range of constituencies and needs. They all share a common, fundamental goal of strengthening this nation by investing in and improving the quality of life of its people, especially the most vulnerable. The bill, which received broad, bipartisan support by the Labor, Health and Human Services Education Appropriations Committee, provides a modest overall increase for programs in the bill, most of which have experienced significant cuts, lost purchasing power, or both over the past three years.

Unfortunately, the FY 2006 Labor, HHS and Education appropriations bill was cut by \$1.6 billion. Congress worked to restore some of those cuts in the FY 2007 Joint Resolution but many programs still remain far below their FY 2005 level, and others lost all funding. The President's misplaced priorities in his FY 2008 budget request continue or deepen cuts for most of the programs in the Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriations bill. America cannot sustain its global scientific and economic leadership, national security and citizens' well-being without increasing these investments.

While our organizations represent a wide array of domestic priorities, we are united in our effort to increase discretionary funding substantially for health, education, labor enforcement, job training and social service programs as the appropriations process moves forward. This increased investment is essential to sustain and advance the well-being and prosperity of our nation.

To respond to this letter, please contact Julio C Abreu, President, Coalition for Health Funding: 202-675 (or email at [jabreu@nmha.org](mailto:jabreu@nmha.org)), or Dr. Edward Kealy, Executive Director, Committee for Education Fund 202-383-0083 (or email at [ekealy@cef.org](mailto:ekealy@cef.org)).

Respectfully,

**Thank you for your continued support for increased LIHEAP funding.**

Sincerely,

LIHEAP Coalition Co-Chairs:

Patricia (Pat) Markey Markey and Associates (202) 822-9288 (202) 822-0920 (fax)		Olivia Wein National Consumer Law Center (202) 452-6252 (202) 463-9462 (fax) <a href="mailto:owein@nclcdc.org">owein@nclcdc.org</a>
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