



National Fuel Funds Network
1010 Vermont Avenue, NW Suite 718
Washington, DC 20005
202 824-0638 (fax), 202 824-0660 (phone)
info@nationalfuelfunds.org
www.nationalfuelfunds.org

ACTION ALERT

Signatures Needed: Senate Dear Colleague Letter Requesting \$5.1 Billion for LIHEAP in FY 2008 Appropriation

To: NFFN members and allies

April 20, 2007

The legislative journey for securing additional funds for LIHEAP continues on two paths, additional funds for FY 2007 and additional funds for FY 2008. Please contact your Senators to influence the success of the latter. Details below.

FY 2008

In February, the President asked for \$1.782 billion for LIHEAP for FY 2008 in his budget request to Congress. The \$1.782 billion request is for - \$1.5 billion in formula funding and \$282 million in emergency contingency funds. The request is down from the \$3.2 billion that was available in FY 2006 and the \$1.98 billion currently available in FY 2007.

Senators Reed (D-RI) and Collins (R-ME) are circulating a "Dear Colleague" letter to all Senators, urging that the Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee to provide \$5.1 billion for LIHEAP in the FY 2008.

Action Needed: Please call or email your Senators today and ask that they sign the Dear Colleague letter. All Senators may be reached at 202-224-3121 or through www.senate.gov.

The Senators who have already signed the letter are: Reed, Collins, Akaka, Bayh, Biden, Bingaman, Boxer, Brown, Burr, Cardin, Casey, Clinton, Coleman, Dodd, Dole, Dorgan, Durbin, Feingold, Kennedy, Kerry, Klobuchar, Levin, Lieberman, Lugar, McCaskill, Menendez, Mikulski, Murkowski, Obama, Rockefeller, Sanders, Smith, Snowe, Stabenow, Tester, Voinovich, Whitehouse, and Wyden. If your Senators have signed, please thank them.

To sign on the Senate Dear Colleague letter, your Senator's office should call Ari Strauss, Legislative Director, Senate Northeast Midwest Coalition 202-224-0606, Ari_Strauss@reed.senate.gov. The deadline for signatures on the letter is COB, Wednesday, April 25. So, please place your calls immediately.

A similar Dear Colleague letter in the House is closing today.

FY 2007

Next week, a House-Senate conference committee will begin work on the supplemental war funding legislation for FY 2007. The House bill contains \$400 million for FY 2007, while the Senate version contains \$620 million. President Bush has said he will veto this bill if it specifies withdrawal deadlines for the Iraq war. If and when the veto happens, and it is not overridden, Congress will draw up new war funding legislation. Whether or not legislators will include the LIHEAP and other non-war supplements, currently totaling about \$21 billion, in the new bill remains unclear. NFFN will keep you informed.

Thank you for taking action on this issue.