



Washington, DC—The House Appropriations Committee has released the draft of the FY2012 Labor, Health and Human Services funding bill, which includes funding for the important Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The announced LIHEAP funding, which helps low income households meet their immediate home energy needs, would allocate \$125.2 million dollars for the state of Massachusetts, and \$2.9 million for the Berkshire Community Action Council—less than 50% of the \$6.9 million allocated to the BCAC last year.

“The proposed cut in LIHEAP funding to Berkshire County is completely unacceptable. Citizens of Western Massachusetts should not be forced to make it through the winter on less than one tank of fuel,” said Congressman Olver. “I will continue to fight to increase the funding level for LIHEAP so residents in Western Massachusetts can stay warm this winter,” added Congressman Olver.

Drafts of the FY2012 Labor, Health and Human Services funding bill have been released from both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. A House subcommittee mark up has not yet been scheduled.

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