

WASHINGTON – Congressman John W. Olver (1st District) has joined 70 of his colleagues in sending a letter to the Senate opposing a bill that would cut LIHEAP funding by 15 percent. Under the Senate bill, Massachusetts would receive \$82.6 billion in LIHEAP funding. The House bill would cut that to \$70.3 billion. "LIHEAP is critical to help low-income families and senior citizens address the burdens of high energy costs," Olver said. "LIHEAP provides assistance to 4 million households nationwide. Yet this represents only about 15 percent of the total energy assistance needed. Last year, states had approximately \$2 billion available to serve low-income families; therefore, an additional \$1.8 billion is needed. According to the Energy Information Agency (EIA), this year's energy prices have significantly increased. Given the current level of unemployment and slow economic growth and the remaining energy burden on low-income families, it is imperative that we maintain the current level of LIHEAP funding."

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