

WASHINGTON , Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) is continuing to fight for increased funding for LIHEAP. "LIHEAP helps low-income families pay their energy bills, a service that is particularly valuable given the current energy crisis. In fiscal year 2005, Congress appropriated \$1.9 billion for LIHEAP. Olver and his colleagues are pushing for increased funding for the program. Home heating oil costs are expected to be 34 percent above last year's costs, while expenditures for propane are expected to be 25 percent higher. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is the primary program that provides assistance to low-income families. "LIHEAP is a vital safety net that reduces the percentage of income spent on residential energy costs, particularly for the elderly and disabled."

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