



Leadership Council of Aging Organizations

William (Larry) Minnix, Jr., Chair

February 13, 2012

Dear Representative:

The undersigned members of the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO) thank you for your efforts to protect the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). We greatly appreciated your letter to President Obama on January 18, 2012.

LCAO is a 66-member coalition of diverse national nonprofit organizations dedicated to preserving and strengthening the well-being of older Americans. With a strong commitment to social justice and fiscal responsibility, the coalition serves as a source of information about issues affecting older persons and provides leadership and vision as America meets the challenges and opportunities presented by its aging society.

The LCAO strongly supports the notion that the President's Fiscal Year 2013 budget should contain at least \$4.7 billion for the LIHEAP program. We appreciate your recognition that LIHEAP funding has been a lifeline during the economic downturn and rising energy costs, helping to ensure that people do not have to choose between paying their energy bills and paying for food or medicine. LIHEAP helps many low-income seniors, as well as many families, stay healthy and safe during cold weather months in numerous states across the country (and cool during summer months).

We hope that with your advocacy, President Obama considers the acute need for LIHEAP and the devastating effect cuts to the program would have on seniors and low-income families, and fully restores LIHEAP funding in his FY 2013 budget.

Thank you again for your strong support of the LIHEAP program. We look forward to continuing to work with you on behalf of the vulnerable older Americans who will rely on LIHEAP to stay warm this winter.

Sincerely,

American Association for International Aging (AAIA)
AFSCME Retirees
Alliance for Retired Americans
American Society on Aging (ASA)
Association for Gerontology and Human Development in Historically Black Colleges and Universities (AGHDHBCU)
B'nai B'rith International
Center for Medicare Advocacy
Easter Seals
The Jewish Federations of North America

LeadingAge

Lutheran Services in America (LSA)

Medicare Rights Center

National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA)

National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)

National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP)

National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD)

National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Inc. (NCBA)

National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare (NCPSSM)

The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care

National Council on Aging (NCOA)

OWL-The Voice of Midlife and Older Women

Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Elders (SAGE)

Senior Service America, Inc. (SSA)

Volunteers of America

Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW)

Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER)