

Michaud Praises Passage of Massive Increase in Funding for LIHEAP

Wednesday, September 24 2008

WASHINGTON, DC

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"This increase in LIHEAP funding is very welcome news," said Michaud. "I have joined with my fellow Northeast colleagues time and time again to push for this increase. There are too many families that are looking to winter and wondering how they are going to be able to afford keeping warm. As tens of thousands of Mainer's know too well, trying to heat your home is harder and harder with increasing energy prices, especially when you are on a fixed income. Too many Mainers this winter will face unacceptable choices like whether to heat their homes or put food on the table. The funding provided in this bill will significantly reduce the need for families to make such decisions."

Earlier this month, the Department of Health and Human Services released the remaining contingency funds within the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for FY 2008, along with non-expiring contingency funds. A total of \$120.7 million was distributed to states and territories for LIHEAP as a result of this action. More than 25% of the total release (roughly \$33.1 million) went to New England, and just over \$7 million went to Maine. Michaud and his colleagues had written the Administration asking for this release because of the growing demand for aid this year.

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