



## Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel

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August 18, 2017

The Honorable Thad Cochran, Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Vice Chair  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
437 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt, Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
260 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies 154  
Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: Support for Bill Payment Assistance for Low-Income Utility Consumers – Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**

Dear Chairman Cochran, Vice Chairman Leahy, Chairman Blunt, and Ranking Member Murray:

I respectfully recommend that there be continued funding of LIHEAP, to help low-income Ohioans and other Americans in need with payment of their energy utility bills. For more than 35 years bill payment assistance (through LIHEAP) has helped millions of American consumers retain utility services that are essential for the health and safety of their families. LIHEAP enables Ohioans and others to benefit from winter heating assistance, among other things.

Bill payment assistance is especially beneficial for seniors, families with young children, and people with disabilities. Over seventy percent of recipient households have at least one member who is elderly, under the age of six, or disabled.<sup>1</sup> Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bruce Weston, Agency Director  
Ohio Consumers' Counsel

cc: The Honorable Sherrod Brown, Senator  
The Honorable Rob Portman, Senator

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<sup>1</sup> See LIHEAP Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2014, at vi-vii, available at [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ocs/fy14\\_liheap\\_rtc\\_final.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ocs/fy14_liheap_rtc_final.pdf).