



State of Connecticut

SENATOR KEVIN C. KELLY
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December 5, 2023

President Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Speaker of the House Mike
Johnson
568 Cannon House Office
Building
Washington, DC 20515

Senate Majority Leader Chuck
Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear President Biden, Speaker of the House Johnson, and Senate Majority Leader Schumer,

I write to relay Connecticut's urgent concerns with regard to obtaining additional federal dollars for our cash-starved heating assistance program.

More than 33,000 applications for the [Connecticut Energy Assistance Program](#) were approved between Sept. 1 and Nov. 4, according to the state [Department of Social Services](#). That's 23% higher than early November numbers last winter, when the program went on to shatter the 100,000-household mark for the first time.

As Senate Republican Leader, and as someone who once worked for the Connecticut Department of Social Services in its energy assistance program, I am quite familiar with the families who rely on this program to heat their homes during cold New England winters.

Simply put: Action must be taken. Lives hang in the balance. Burdens are placed on municipalities across Connecticut to deal with the consequences.

Majority leadership here at the State Capitol has taken a wait-and-see approach to this crisis and hopes Congress will provide the additional funding. But hope is not a strategy, as I am certain you would agree.

I urge you to work in bipartisan fashion to approve supplemental LIHEAP funding. In the absence of state assistance which I continue to press for, we need federal help.

Thank you all for your service to our country and your attention to this crisis.

Sincerely yours,

Kevin C. Kelly
Senate Republican Leader

cc:

Governor Ned Lamont
Sen. Richard Blumenthal
Sen. Chris Murphy
U.S. Rep. John Larson
U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney
U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro
U.S. Rep. Jim Himes
U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes