

The New York State Association of Area Agencies on Aging provides education, policy development, and resources to the 59 county offices for the aging in New York State.



July 15, 2008

Senator Charles E. Schumer  
313 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Memo in Support of S. 3186  
Warm in Winter and Cool in Summer Act

Dear Senator Schumer,

We are writing to you as co-sponsor of S. 3186, to express our strong support for increased funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The New York State Association of Area Agencies on Aging (NYSAAA) represents the 59 county offices for aging throughout the State. Offices for the Aging report that seniors are compromising their prescription medication and basic food needs in order to pay for increasing energy costs.

We understand that S. 3186 would provide an additional \$2.53 billion in LIHEAP funding, which would translate into an additional \$250 million for New York State. The statistics below highlight the need for additional funding:

- Energy costs consume a larger proportion of an older person's annual income, as many are on fixed incomes.
- In New York State, there are 12.1% older individuals (age 65 +) who have incomes below the poverty level (\$10,400). (source: 2006 American Community Survey)
- In the Northeast, 32% heat with oil, compared to 7% in the U.S.
- For older consumers in the Northeast and Midwest, fuel oil is projected to increase the most. In the Northeast, the projected increase is an average of \$2,019 a year per household.
- In the Northeast, 55% of all households use natural gas. National Grid projects natural gas bills to increase 35% in the next year.
- Heating oil, propane, and kerosene pricing is unregulated and is subject to significant price increases. Gas and electric utility companies are regulated by the Public Service Commission (PSC).

We strongly support this legislation and thank you for co-sponsoring the bill.

Sincerely,

Joseph W. Cybulski  
President

Sharon Mullon, D. Min.  
Chair, Legislative Committee

Laura A. Cameron  
Executive Director

Sent via fax number 202-228-3027

New York State Association of  
Area Agencies on Aging  
272 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12204-2717

Ph. 518-449-7080  
Fax 518-449-7055  
office@nysaaa.org  
www.nysaaa.org