

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 23, 2000

The Speaker of the

House of Representatives

Sir:

In accordance with provisions of the FY 2000 Emergency Supplemental Act, as included in Public Law 106-246, I hereby request and make available appropriations of \$400,000,000 in budget authority for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program of the Department of Health and Human Services. These funds will enable the Department to address the needs of low-income households in all States that are facing significant increases in heating fuel prices.

I designate the \$400,000,000 made available today as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William J. Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "W".

Enclosure



THE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

September 23, 2000

The President

The White House

Submitted for your consideration is a request to make available \$400.0 million in emergency appropriations for the Department of Health and Human Services. Your approval of this request would make available previously appropriated funds to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to help all States address the needs of low-income households that are facing significant increases in heating fuel prices, with a majority of funds distributed to the colder weather States of the Northeast and Midwest.

The FY 2000 Emergency Supplemental Act, as included in Public Law 106-246, provided \$600.0 million for LIHEAP, contingent upon the President submitting a budget request to the Congress and designating the entire amount requested as an emergency requirement. These funds replenished the LIHEAP contingent emergency fund, which was exhausted this past winter in response to oil price increases. To date, you have released a total of \$44.4 million of this emergency funding to address the needs of low-income households in eight southern States arising from extremely hot weather conditions; low-income households in Alaska needing assistance with fuel costs in light of the fisheries disaster; and, low-income households in California that were facing extremely high electricity prices this summer.

I recommend that you designate this request for \$400.0 million as an emergency funding requirement in accordance with section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended. No further congressional action will be required.

I have carefully reviewed this proposal and am satisfied that it is necessary at this time. Therefore, I join the Secretary of Health and Human Services in recommending that you make the requested funds available by signing the enclosed letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jacob J. Lew".

Jacob J. Lew
Director

Enclosure

**EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS: AMOUNTS PREVIOUSLY APPROPRIATED
MADE AVAILABLE BY THE PRESIDENT**

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Low income home energy assistance program..... \$400,000,000

The FY 2000 Emergency Supplemental Act, as included in Public Law 106-246, provided \$600,000,000 for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, contingent upon the President submitting a budget request to the Congress and designating the entire amount requested as an emergency requirement.

Of the \$600,000,000 in contingent emergency appropriations provided by Public Law 106-246, \$44,350,000 has been designated as an emergency requirement and made available. At this time, an additional \$400,000,000 in contingent funding is required to support the needs of low-income households throughout the United States arising from significant increases in heating fuel prices. These funds will enable all States to assist low-income households affected by price increases that have occurred throughout the country and will provide additional assistance to the States in proportion to their usage of heating oil, natural gas, and propane.