

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 19, 2004

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed FY 2005 budget amendment for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program in the Department of Health and Human Services. I designate \$300 million in requested contingency funding for this program as an emergency requirement.

The details of this proposal are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Dennis Hastert". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert  
Speaker of the  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Enclosure



THE DIRECTOR

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

November 18, 2004

The President  
The White House

Submitted for your consideration is a request for an FY 2005 budget amendment for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program in the Department of Health and Human Services. The additional funds requested would ensure that resources are adequate to meet the energy needs of low-income households facing a recent spike in home heating fuel costs.

I have carefully reviewed this proposal and am satisfied that it is necessary at this time. Therefore, I join the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services in recommending that you transmit this amendment to the Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bolten", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joshua B. Bolten  
Director

Enclosure

*FY 2005 Budget Amendment*

Agency: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Bureau: Administration for Children and Families  
Heading: Low Income Home Energy Assistance  
FY 2005 Budget  
Appendix Page: 453  
FY 2005  
Pending Request: \$2,000,500,000  
FY 2005  
Proposed Amendment: \$200,000,000  
Revised Request: \$2,200,500,000

(In the appropriations language under the above heading, amend as follows:)

- 1) delete "\$1,800,500,000" and substitute \$1,900,500,000
- 2) delete "\$200,000,000" and substitute \$300,000,000
- 3) delete ", and notwithstanding the designation requirement of section 2602(e)";  
and
- 4) insert before the period, : Provided further, That Congress designates this amount as an emergency requirement for this specific purpose

Since last winter, home heating fuel prices have increased 49 percent. In response to this recent spike in costs, this budget amendment would increase the FY 2005 appropriations request for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program to ensure that resources are adequate to meet the energy needs of low-income households.

The amendment provides \$100 million in additional block grant funds, revises the request to provide \$300 million in contingency funding, and designates this entire \$300 million as an emergency requirement.