



PHILADELPHIA *delegation*



PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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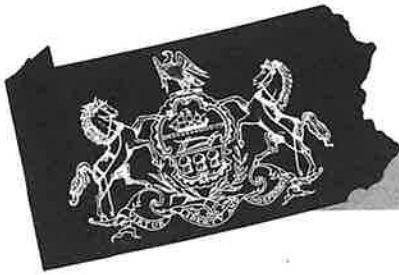
October 29, 2025

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Chair DeFrank
Vice Chair Barrow
Commissioners Zerfuss, Coleman, and Yanora

As Chair of the Philadelphia House Delegation, I write on behalf of our members and the communities we serve to **urge the PUC to pause the termination of heat-related services for LIHEAP eligible households until the program reopens**. This action is necessary to protect those who have been made especially vulnerable by the ongoing federal government shutdown and its severe impact on Pennsylvanians. We request this pause for those eligible for the program as well as Federal Workers impacted by the government shutdown.

The federal shutdown has already resulted in the suspension of November SNAP payments, cutting off food access for over 2 million Pennsylvanians, including more than 500,000 in Philadelphia. The LIHEAP season has now been delayed until at least December, leaving thousands of low-income households without crucial support for heating and energy costs during the colder months. Finally, tens of thousands of furloughed employees across the state including in the City are now facing acute financial hardship.

We are deeply concerned for the health, safety, and well-being of low-income Pennsylvanians, particularly those already at risk. The delay in vital programs like LIHEAP, combined with the ongoing shutdown, has placed many families in an impossible position. Pausing the termination of heat-related services for LIHEAP eligible households until the program reopens would provide immediate relief not only to those who depend on LIHEAP but also to furloughed federal workers who remain unpaid.



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This is not just a policy issue; it's a matter of survival for families in our state. Without this intervention, households across our Commonwealth—and especially in Philadelphia—will face dire choices between paying for food, heat, and shelter. The resulting instability will have far-reaching effects, putting local schools, hospitals, economies, and community safety at risk.

We know you understand the urgency of the situation and the toll this crisis is taking on our most vulnerable residents. Now is the time to act. Pausing the termination of heat-related services until the program reopens is a critical and necessary step in alleviating some of the strain on our constituents. I hope you will join us in this effort to protect those who need it most.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We look forward to working with you to support our communities during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Cephas".

Rep. Morgan Cephas
Chair, Philadelphia House Delegation