

**2015 Resolution No: 2**

**Submitted by:** Mayor Martin J. Walsh, Boston, Massachusetts

**Resolution to Increase Funding For The Low Income Home  
Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**

WHEREAS, LIHEAP is an essential resource for our communities' most underserved populations, including the working poor, the disabled and the elderly living on fixed incomes.

WHEREAS, LIHEAP is an exceptionally efficient and targeted program, with state block grants flowing to local agencies which provide short-term, mostly one-time, assistance to help cover a portion of their heating costs in the winter and cooling costs in the summer.

WHEREAS, LIHEAP prevents low-income families from having to choose between paying to heat or cool their homes or purchasing necessary medication and food.

WHEREAS, The US Census Bureau reported that 14.5 percent of the country, or 45 million people, have incomes below the poverty threshold. This total is still significantly larger than the 12.3% in poverty in 2006, before the recession began.

WHEREAS, energy costs continue to place an enormous burden on the budgets of low-income households.

WHEREAS, total funding for LIHEAP has declined by more than 30 percent in recent years, from \$5.1 billion in FY2010 to \$3.4 billion in Fiscal Year 2015.

WHEREAS, during this period (FY2010-2011), the number of households served fell from approximately 8.1 million to 6.7 million. Meanwhile, the average LIHEAP payments have been reduced by roughly \$100 since 2010, dropping from \$520 in FY2010 to \$425 in FY2015.

WHEREAS, at the current funding level of \$3.4 billion, the LIHEAP program is only serving roughly 20 percent of the eligible population.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U. S. Conference of Mayors supports an increase in LIHEAP funding and urges Congress to increase the appropriations of the LIHEAP program to at least \$4.7 billion in the FY 2016 budget to respond to the high demand of eligible households.