

Rothman Statement On President Bush's Decision To Release Funds For Low-Income Home Energy Assistance

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Hackensack, NJ - Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) today gave the following statement in response to President Bush's decision to release funds for the low-income home energy assistance program.

"I am pleased President Bush today finally directed U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson to release \$200 million in Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds to all 50 states, including \$10 million to New Jersey. However, for too long, President Bush refused to provide this home energy aid. I am very disappointed that it took such severe, arctic weather to awaken the president to the plight of low-income households struggling to keep their homes warm.

"Families across New Jersey are working hard just to make ends meet, and residential heating oil prices are predicted to increase by more than 20 percent from a five-year average. These emergency funds will ensure that our most vulnerable families are not forced to choose between paying for food, housing, and clothes, and paying to keep themselves warm during the winter."

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