



# Improving Weatherization Assistance

**Sponsors: Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE) & Rep. Paul D. Tonko (D-NY), along with Sens. Susan Collins (R-ME), Jack Reed (D-RI), & Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)**

*"Saving energy is the first step to reducing our energy costs and increasing our nation's energy security. The Weatherization Assistance Program allows millions of Americans to reap the benefits of a wide range of energy-efficient technologies and practices."*

❖ **Senator Chris Coons**

*"Weatherization is more than just a smart investment in energy efficiency that saves money for low-income Americans. It makes Americans safer and supports thousands of local jobs."*

❖ **Congressman Paul D. Tonko**

## Weatherization is a powerful tool for lowering utility bills

- Over 40+ years, America's **Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)** has helped more than **7.4 million low-income households** make their homes safer, healthier & more energy efficient
- Based in the U.S. Department of Energy, **WAP has supported programs in all 50 states**, the District of Columbia, five U.S. territories, and three tribal governments
- The program benefits workers and small businesses, **directly supporting more than 8,500 jobs** and thousands more in related industries

## The evidence is clear: weatherization pays the bills

- **Low-income households pay 7.2% of household income on energy**, more than three times the amount that higher income households pay
- An independent review by Oak Ridge National Laboratory found that **each Weatherization program dollar delivers \$4.50 in benefits** including energy savings and improved health & safety



Each weatherization dollar delivers \$4.50 in benefits in energy savings, health & safety

## Congress Needs to Step Up!

- Since 1976, DOE's weatherization program has helped low-income households make their homes safer, healthier, and more energy efficient
- The most recent **authorization of the program expired in 2012**
- Other aspects of the program can be modernized and improved

### The Legislation

- **FULL TITLE: The Weatherization Enhancement and Local Energy Efficiency Investment and Accountability Act**
- Reauthorizes the Weatherization Assistance Program at \$350 million through Fiscal Year 2024
- Modernizes the definition of weatherization materials to include renewable energy technologies and other advanced technologies
- Allows re-weatherization of homes 15 years after past weatherization services were completed
- Creates a small, competitive grant program to support innovative weatherization practices

***Weatherization is a smart, cost-effective way to lower energy costs for America's most vulnerable households. It's time for Congress to update the nation's largest residential energy efficiency program!***