

Making Weatherization Work Better for All



117th Congress

House Sponsors: Reps. Paul Tonko (NY-20), Bobby Rush (IL-1) & Marcy Kaptur (OH-9)

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

❖ **Congressman Paul D. Tonko**

Weatherization saves energy and lowers utility costs

- For over 40 years, the Department of Energy’s Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) has helped make more than 7 million low-income households safer, healthier & more energy efficient.
- According to DOE, the national average energy burden for low-income households is 8.6%, three times higher than for non-low-income households.
- Weatherization reduces energy burden with cost-effective, energy efficiency retrofit investments. Households receiving WAP services save on average **\$372 each year on their energy bills**.

Despite its success, barriers hinder effective assistance

- WAP has a limit on how much assistance a household can receive, known as the average cost per unit (ACPU).
 - The ACPU has not been raised at a rate to keep up with recent increases in the cost of building materials, restricting the services households receive and putting pressure on WAP crews’ wages, which are included in the ACPU calculation.
- Many Americans who would benefit from WAP the most are unable to access the program due to their homes being in such poor conditions.
 - Homes unable to receive effective assistance are passed over by the program. These deferrals result in work being postponed until structural deficiencies or health and safety hazards can be resolved; however, many low-income households are unable to afford these repairs.

Congress Must Step Up!

The Weatherization Enhancement & Readiness Act would strengthen the program by:

- ❖ Raising the statutory ACPU from \$6,000 to \$12,000, so that households can receive more assistance, and WAP implementers can pay competitive wages and retain their workforces;
- ❖ Establishing a Weatherization Readiness Program to address structural, plumbing, roofing, and electrical issues, and environmental hazards with dwelling units unable to receive effective assistance from WAP;
- ❖ Authorizing \$90 million annually through FY2027 for the Weatherization Readiness Program; and
- ❖ Making other minor and clarifying changes to WAP.