Legal Services Advocacy Project

April 27, 2026

The Honorable John Marty
Chair, Finance Committee
Minnesota Senate
3235 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Eric R. Pratt
Ranking Minority Leader, Finance Committee
Minnesota Senate
2217 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF 4504 – Omnibus Energy Bill – Supplemental Energy Assistance Grant Program

Dear Chair Marty, Ranking Minority Leader Pratt, and Members of the Committee:

LSAP writes in strong support for Article 1, Sections 12 and 18 of SF 4504, which, respectively, establish a Minnesota Supplemental Energy Assistance Grant Program and appropriates $15 million for that purpose. provides legislative and administrative policy advocacy on behalf of Legal Aid's clients, who include low-income Minnesotans, Minnesotans with disabilities, and elder Minnesotans statewide.

This assistance could not be more timely nor more necessary. Energy prices are rising. Testimony before the Energy Committee indicated that, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2025 natural gas increased by 10.8% and electricity by 6.7%.[1] Turmoil and disruption in the global energy market and the proposed 2027 federal budget "would eliminate $4 billion in funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)."[2] Minnesota's low-income energy consumers face stiff headwinds in trying to meet their need for basic energy. While "the average energy burden is 2%...low-income [Minnesota] households average an energy burden of 8% and some Minnesotans face an energy burden exceeding 30%."[3]

Now, more than ever, relief for these households is critical. LSAP urges the committee to pass SF 4504 and in particular the provisions establishing and funding a Supplemental Energy Assistance Grant Program.

Sincerely,

Ron Elwood

Ron Elwood
Supervising Attorney

[1] Rob Hubbard, *Energy panel hears the reasons for the rising price of power,* Minnesota House of Representatives Session Daily, February 19, 2026.
[2] National Energy Assistance Directors Association, Press Release, *President's FY 2027 Budget Eliminates Federal Funding for LIHEAP*, April 3, 2026.
[3] Minnesota Department of Commerce, *Minnesota Energy Data Dashboard/Energy Burden.*