



*Written Testimony before the Energy and Technology Committee  
Department of Social Services  
February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

Good morning, Chairs Needleman and Steinberg, Ranking Members Fazio and Marra; and distinguished members of the Energy and Technology Committee. I am Andrea Barton Reeves, Commissioner of the Department of Social Services.

I am pleased to offer remarks on House Bill 6926.

**HOUSE BILL 6926: AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR THE RESIDENTIAL ENERGY PREPARATION SERVICES PROGRAM.**

This bill appropriates eight million dollars from the General Fund for the Residential Energy Preparation Services (REPS) program, as administered by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection with funding from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Block Grant administered by the Department of Social Services (DSS).

The Department is supportive of the REPS program which works to remove health and safety barriers such as asbestos, mold, and knob-and-tube wiring in income-eligible households to enable weatherization, which in turn reduces energy consumption and optimizes energy efficiency of the building. DSS has coordinated the use of limited amounts of LIHEAP funding, in addition to the funding DEEP received from State Energy Program funds as well as American Rescue Plan Act funds, to help get the program established.

While it appears that this bill is allocating additional General Fund dollars to REPS, out of an abundance of caution due to the reference to LIHEAP, the Department would like to clarify that while it is supportive of the REPS program, DSS does not support any redirection of the State's fixed and finite federal LIHEAP dollars that are currently being used to directly reduce energy costs for low-income households to REPS.