

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4029

To express the sense of Congress regarding the need for a nationwide moratorium on electric and natural gas utility disconnections during the nationwide emergency relating to the spread of the novel coronavirus.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 22, 2020

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To express the sense of Congress regarding the need for a nationwide moratorium on electric and natural gas utility disconnections during the nationwide emergency relating to the spread of the novel coronavirus.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE NEED**
2 **FOR A NATIONWIDE MORATORIUM ON ELEC-**
3 **TRIC AND NATURAL GAS UTILITY DIS-**
4 **CONNECTIONS DURING THE NATIONWIDE**
5 **EMERGENCY RELATING TO THE SPREAD OF**
6 **THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that, for the duration of
8 the emergency involving Federal primary responsibility de-
9 termined to exist by the President under section 501(b)
10 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
11 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5191(b)) with respect to the
12 Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19), each relevant
13 State regulatory authority and each electric or natural gas
14 utility that sells electric energy or natural gas to a con-
15 sumer should ensure that—

16 (1) no electric or natural gas service to a con-
17 sumer is terminated;

18 (2) reasonable efforts are made to safely recon-
19 nect electric and natural gas consumers that have
20 lost service;

21 (3) no electric or natural gas consumer is
22 charged for reconnection services;

23 (4) late fees and other penalties are waived for
24 electric and natural gas consumers; and

- 1 (5) there are no increases in cost-of-service to
- 2 electric and natural gas consumers.

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