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Please reconsider funding for emergency heat and rental assistance. I am a concerned citizen and a mother, and I am very worried for folks who are without housing or getting evicted this winter. The shelters are full, and GA-accepting hotels are full, and many people have no choice but to sleep out in the cold. People will die unless we help them. Some of these people are veterans. Some of these people are very sick. Some of these people are children.

While I try to make the holidays magical for my kids, I am struck by how fortunate we are to have our basic needs met and the ability to do extra things to make Christmas special. My heart breaks for those less fortunate. I am so grateful for the case workers who are trying with all their might to find solutions to keep people off the streets, and if that fails, to keep them from freezing to death by finding tents and sleeping bags. But it's not enough! Please, can we at least just fund these programs for a few more months until the coldest months are behind us? People won't get an opportunity to turn their lives around if they don't even survive the winter.

The causes of poverty and homelessness are complex, and we may not be able to solve them with this bill, but in the short-term, this is absolutely critical to protect our neighbors from a cruel and preventable worsening or shortening of their lives.