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## Bill aims to boost energy savings for low-income families amid rising costs

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By: FOX26 News Staff

A bill that could change how families in the Central Valley power their homes is one step closer to becoming law.

Surrounded by community leaders at self-help enterprises in Visalia, Senator Melissa Hurtado made a passionate appeal for Senate Bill 647, the Home Energy Savings Expansion Act.

The bill would expand access to energy efficiency programs for low-income families, helping them lower utility bills, stay safe during extreme heat, and take part in California's clean energy future.

Senator Melissa Hurtado said, "Not having access to air conditioning can be a death sentence. We've lost lives. A couple right here in the valley died after their AC broke down. This bill can save lives."

The bill is in its final stage in the legislature.

Senator Hurtado and local leaders are urging residents to get involved by calling, writing letters, and speaking up, saying that when constituents stay silent, important legislation dies.

Leaders stressed that for some, energy costs are more than just a monthly bill; they're a barrier to basic survival.

Tom Collishaw said, "People are spending more on their utility bills than they make in income. We need to ensure safer homes, not just cheaper ones."

Visalia Mayor Brett Taylor says he has experienced this first hand having to use these life-saving programs as a young father 10 years ago.

Watch the full video here: <https://kmpm.com/newsletter-daily/bill-aims-to-boost-energy-savings-for-low-income-families-amid-rising-costs>