

Jubilee USA Network  
110 Maryland Ave. NE, Ste 210  
Washington, D.C. 20002

Via E-mail

February 16th, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

*"They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations." - Isaiah 61:4*

President Biden,

You and your administration are in our prayers. We look forward to working with you to address the challenges facing Puerto Rico's people.

Thank you for releasing urgently needed hurricane recovery funds. As religious leaders who advocate for the needs of Puerto Rico's people, we respectfully request you move forward the following actions:

- Please immediately instruct the Department of Justice to withdraw the suit, filed by the previous administration, that blocks \$2.3 billion in annual Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments. About 300,000 poor and vulnerable US citizens with disabilities are critically impacted. In the US vs. Vaello-Madero, the US First Circuit Court of Appeals granted SSI access to all Puerto Ricans. When the Justice Department withdraws the appeal, the Appellate Court's decision stands.
- Through Executive or support of Congressional Action, please implement measures to return manufacturing jobs to Puerto Rico that encourage pharmaceuticals to spur economic recovery and job creation in areas of high unemployment and poverty. Puerto Rico has skilled labor, the capacity, and the facilities to immediately take up additional pharmaceutical and personal protective equipment manufacturing, to aid in the fight against COVID-19 and increase supplies in the United States.
- Expand and fully fund the Nutrition Assistance Program, Medicare, Medicaid, Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. Nearly 60% of Puerto Rico's children, US citizens, live in poverty and would benefit from these measures.

- Support Congressional action to move forward additional disaster recovery monies for Puerto Rico. The devastating impact of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, earthquakes and the coronavirus impact US citizens on the island. Conservative estimates note that Puerto Rico needs an additional \$50 billion in recovery aid.

President Biden, thank you for your support and solidarity for the people of Puerto Rico. Now, we look forward to working with you so Puerto Rico can emerge with renewed resilience from our debt and child poverty crises, challenges with ongoing natural disasters and the impacts of the pandemic. We hold you in prayer and invite your daily prayers for the people of Puerto Rico.

Respectfully,

Roberto O. González Nieves, OFM  
Metropolitan Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Juan de Puerto Rico

Rubén González Medina CMF  
Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ponce

Reverend Idalia Negrón Caamaño  
Bishop of the Caribbean Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Reverend Felipe Lozada Montañez  
President of the Puerto Rico Council of Churches and Emeritus Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran in Puerto Rico

Reverend Miguel A. Morales Castro  
General Pastor of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Puerto Rico

Reverend Héctor F. Ortiz Vidal  
Bishop of the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico

Reverend Edward Rivera Santiago  
General Pastor of the United Evangelical Church of Puerto Rico

Reverend Esteban González Dobles  
Former General Pastor of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Puerto Rico

Reverend Rafael Moreno Rivas  
Emeritus Bishop of the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico

Reverend Heriberto Martínez Rivera  
General Secretary of the Puerto Rico Bible Society

Reverend Enrique Camacho  
Executive Director of Cáritas (Catholic Charities) of Puerto Rico

Reverend Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Reverend Dr. John C. Dorhauer  
General Minister and President, United Church of Christ

Reverend Teresa Hord Owens  
General Minister and President, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Reverend Julia Brown Karimu  
President, Division of Overseas Ministries and Co-executive, Global Ministries of the  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ

Reverend Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson  
Associate General Minister for Wider Church Ministries and Operations, Co-executive,  
Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of  
Christ

James Winkler  
President and General Secretary of the National Council of Churches

Reverend Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe  
General Secretary, The United Methodist Church General Board of Church and  
Society

Donna J. Markham OP, PhD, ABPP  
President & CEO, Catholic Charities USA

Eric LeCompte  
Executive Director, Jubilee USA Network

CC: The Honorable Monty Wilkinson  
Acting Attorney General of the U.S. Department of Justice  
The Honorable Janet Yellen  
Secretary of the U.S. Department of Treasury  
The Honorable Pedro Pierluisi  
Governor of Puerto Rico  
The Honorable Jose Luis Dalmau  
President of the Senate of Puerto Rico  
The Honorable Rafael Hernández Montañez  
Speaker of the Puerto Rico House of Representatives  
The Honorable Jenniffer González-Colón  
Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico  
David Skeel  
President, Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico  
Natalie Jaresko  
Executive Director, Financial Oversight and Management Board for  
Puerto Rico  
The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader of the United States Senate  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader of the United States Senate  
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the United States House of Representatives  
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives