

March 14, 2017

US House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative,

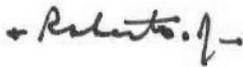
As religious leaders in Puerto Rico, we urge you to act on behalf of the 3.4 million American citizens living on the island. Our people are suffering. Nearly 60% of our children live in poverty and thousands of our brothers and sisters flee to the US mainland each year in search of work

Congress can help. We request that you act on the bipartisan proposals from the Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico, created by the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA), specifically:

- 1) Please pass legislation to ensure that Medicare Advantage plans are being fairly and properly compensated for the services they provide to beneficiaries. Funding the island's health care system is critical to stabilizing and then growing its economy. The Medicare Advantage program accounts for 50 percent of health care dollars on the island and has an enrollment rate of 75 percent.
- 2) We urge you to extend the federal Child Tax Credit to Puerto Rico to families with one or two children in Puerto Rico. This credit protects children who are at risk of falling into poverty. It would pump nearly \$3 billion into Puerto Rico's economy over the next decade and is a vital element of any future economic plan in Puerto Rico.

In your important work in addressing the island's financial and developing humanitarian crisis, we pray you will weigh any decision that you make in light of how it impacts our children and the children of future generations. These children played no role in creating this crisis but stand to lose the most if we do not resolve it. We thank you for your efforts to address the problems plaguing our island and pray for you as you consider these important actions.

Respectfully,



Roberto O. González Nieves, OFM, Archbishop of San Juan de Puerto Rico



Reverend Heriberto Martínez-Rivera, Secretary General of Puerto Rico's Bible Society and Coordinator of the Ecumenical and Interfaith Coalition of Puerto Rico