

March 22, 2017

Archbishop Roberto González Nieves, OFM
and Reverend Heriberto Martínez-Rivera
c/o Jubilee USA Network
212 E Capitol Street NE
Washington, DC 20003

Speaker Paul Ryan
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Minority Leader Chuck Schumer
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer,

Since the Fall of 2015, we have worked with you on resolving Puerto Rico's financial crisis. Working together with our partners at Jubilee USA Network, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, the United Church of Christ, the National Latino Evangelical Coalition, the Presbyterian Church USA and Catholic Charities - we've seen progress on resolving the crisis. We remain grateful for your leadership.

You moved Congress to act for Puerto Rico. As our island prepares to restructure its debt, we need you to act again.

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

- Please pass legislation to fix Medicaid funding in Puerto Rico. The island's Medicaid program is currently operating under a block grant which will soon run out. Future payments are set to be capped at barely more than a quarter of what Puerto Rico needs. Puerto Rico should be reimbursed based on per capita income, as states are. Over 40% of the island's population relies on Medicaid funding. Puerto Rico's health care system will be at significant risk of systemic failure if Congress does not act.

- 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.
- 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.

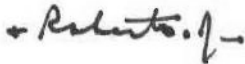
Because of how this crisis impacts our people and in particular Puerto Rico's children, we continue to pursue all possible solutions. We are also aware that other US territories and developing countries around the world are facing financial crisis. Many of these countries, like Puerto Rico, find themselves in crisis because of the need for US law that promotes conservative, responsible lending and borrowing.

As we continue to work together to resolve Puerto Rico's current crisis, we also want to prevent the next crisis. We want to prevent financial crises that impact all children in our world and we invite you to also work with us on these broader stewardship and preventive measures.

Again, thank you for your efforts on Puerto Rico and we hope you will move forward the bipartisan Congressional Task Force recommendations as soon as possible.

Please know that you are in our prayers.

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