



Catholic
Charities
USA®

Working to Reduce Poverty in America.

June 22, 2016

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator,

I write to you today on behalf of Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) to urge you to take up and pass the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act - PROMESA (S. 2328).

Episcopal Liaison
The Most Reverend
David A. Zubik, D.D.
Bishop of Pittsburgh

Chair
Marguerite Harmon

Vice Chair
Gregory Kefferle

Secretary
Charles Cornelio

Treasurer
Michael Connelly

President & CEO
Sr. Donna Markham OP, PhD

CCUSA represents more than 177 diocesan Catholic Charities member agencies and affiliated organizations across the country, including our member agency Caritas de Puerto Rico. The ongoing crisis in Puerto Rico has had a devastating impact on its people with over 46%, including 56% of children, living in poverty. In response, Caritas de Puerto Rico has worked to meet the need by expanding its services five-fold in the last five years. In 2015 alone, Caritas de Puerto Rico served over 78,000 people, all of whom were living under the poverty line and nearly a third of whom were vulnerable children. This reality is a reminder that those suffering most under this crisis are those who least contributed to its creation.

The PROMESA legislation passed the House of Representatives with strong bipartisan support and robust language to address child poverty in Puerto Rico. With a looming \$1.9 billion debt payment due by July 1st, time is of the essence for the people of Puerto Rico. While aspects of the bill could be strengthened, I urge you to act swiftly so that the people of Puerto Rico can begin the process of rebuilding their economy and taking the first steps towards long-term reform.

I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

