



Catholic
Charities
USA.

Working to Reduce Poverty in America.

June 8, 2016

United States House of Representatives

Dear Representative,

I write to you today on behalf of Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA), the national representation for the 177 diocesan Catholic Charities member agencies and affiliated organizations across the country (and territories), to urge you to support an amendment to the Puerto Rico Oversight Management and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA) which directly addresses child poverty in Puerto Rico (Reps. Jolly-Curbelo Amendment).

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

Chair
Marguerite Harmon

Vice Chair
Gregory Kepferle

Secretary
Elida El-Gawly

Treasurer
Charles Cornelio

President & CEO
Sr. Donna Markham OP, PhD

CCUSA is deeply concerned about the devastating impact this crisis is having on the island's children, where nearly 60% of Puerto Rico's children live in poverty. While only 11% of children on the US mainland live in "high -poverty areas," in Puerto Rico nearly 80% of children live in such high -poverty areas. The Catholic Charities member agency in Puerto Rico, Caritas de Puerto Rico, has worked tirelessly to address the devastating impact of this crisis by serving over 78,000 people last year alone, all of whom were living under the poverty line and nearly a third of whom were vulnerable children.

We urge you therefore to support an amendment to the Puerto Rico Oversight Management and Economic Stability Act that directly addresses child poverty in Puerto Rico and that will ensure the new oversight and restructuring tools in this bill benefit the most vulnerable of Puerto Rico's people.

I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

