



## CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS

*Linda T. Sánchez | Chairwoman*

114TH CONGRESS

November 6, 2015

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
House Democratic Leader  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Senate Minority Leader  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Speaker, Leader Pelosi, Leader McConnell, and Leader Reid:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus to express our deep concern about the severe economic and fiscal situation in Puerto Rico, a U.S. jurisdiction home to 3.5 million American citizens. This year alone, there have been four committee hearings—two in the House, two in the Senate—on Puerto Rico. It is clear to any reasonable observer that congressional action is both necessary and justified. If the federal government does not provide Puerto Rico with the tools it needs, the situation on the island will continue to deteriorate. Vital public services may be compromised, payments to creditors could be missed, and the already-unprecedented number of Puerto Rico residents relocating to the U.S. mainland could further spike.

Last week, the Administration—led by the U.S. Treasury Department, the National Economic Council and the Department of Health and Human Services—submitted to Congress a legislative proposal to address the situation in Puerto Rico. It consists of four pillars: more equitable treatment under refundable federal tax credit programs like the earned income tax credit program and the child tax credit program; more equitable treatment under federal health programs like Medicaid; a federally-authorized process to enable Puerto Rico to restructure bonded debt in a fair and orderly manner; and a degree of federal oversight to help the government of Puerto Rico manage its finances in a more effective and transparent way.

We believe these four pillars provide a valuable framework for bipartisan, bicameral legislative action. We urge Congress to enact a package of meaningful legislative provisions, either in the form of a standalone bill or as part of a larger vehicle, such as legislation making appropriations for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2016.

It is our fervent hope that Congress will act with a sense of urgency that is commensurate with the urgent nature of the problem in Puerto Rico. Your leadership is essential to accomplishing this objective.

Sincerely,



**Rep. Linda T. Sánchez**

Chairwoman

Congressional Hispanic Caucus