

April 5, 2017

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
H-237 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan:

We write to urge immediate congressional action to address the funding crisis facing Puerto Rico's health care system. As you know, Puerto Rico's Medicaid program receives a lower reimbursement rate than mainland states. This low rate is being temporarily supplemented by a federal grant that expires soon. Based on projections provided by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the island's supplemental funding will be depleted by the end of this year.

The Medicaid program is already experiencing cash flow problems. Congress' failure to address this funding gap will not only exacerbate Puerto Rico's already fragile fiscal condition but will deny health care coverage to nearly 1 million residents on the island. Not addressing the cliff will also result in additional outmigration to the mainland, where the cost of providing Medicaid is much greater than on the island. We have already seen unprecedented numbers of Puerto Rican residents, including health care providers, leave the island.

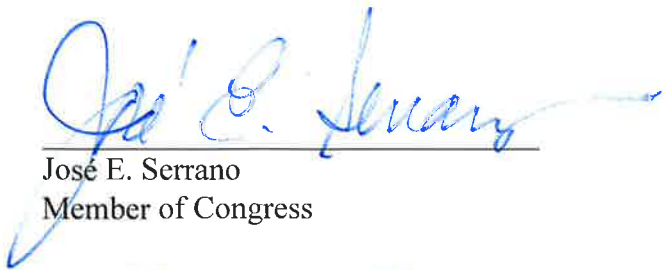
The Puerto Rican Task Force established by PROMESA reached bipartisan consensus in support of fiscally-responsible legislation to address the impending Medicaid cliff. Enacting such legislation immediately is essential to provide Puerto Rico's Medicaid agency with the certainty it needs to engage with the managed care organizations that operate the island's Medicaid program. While we believe that a long-term solution for Puerto Rico's historically inadequate federal Medicaid funding is long overdue, we want to stress our support for an immediate short-term solution to ensure full fiscal year financing for 2018 to avoid the Medicaid cliff. It is time for Congress to act – and act soon – as Puerto Ricans have suffered far too long.

We are gravely concerned about the implications of the cliff and, for this reason, believe that it must have Congress' full attention. The risks are too great to wait. Therefore, we urge you to make Medicaid funding for Puerto Rico a top priority and promptly bring legislation to the House floor as soon as possible.

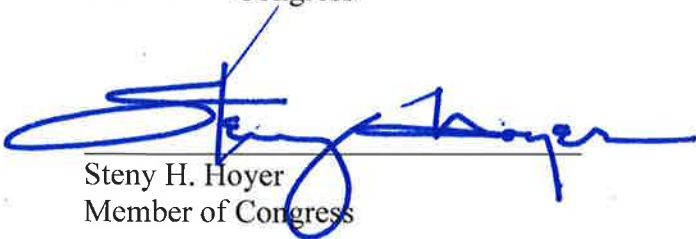
Sincerely,



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress



Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



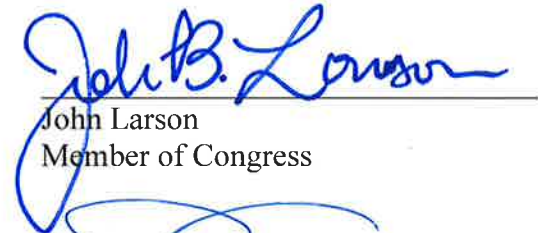
James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress



Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress



John Larson
Member of Congress



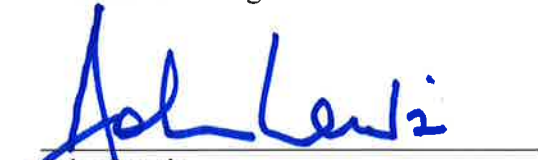
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



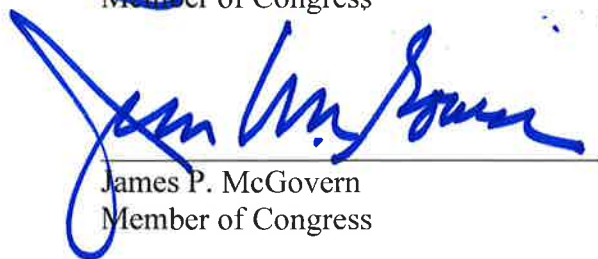
Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



John Lewis
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

Hakeem Jeffries

Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress

Alma Adams

Alma Adams
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

Karen Bass

Karen Bass
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

Ed Perlmutter

Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

Paul Tonko

Paul Tonko
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard

Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer, Jr.

Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

E. Norton

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Linda T. Sanchez

Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress

Colleen Hanabusa

Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

Louise Slaughter

Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress

John P. Sarbanes

John Sarbanes
Member of Congress

Thomas R. Suozzi

Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

Niki Tsongas

Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress

Norma J. Torres

Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress

Kathleen M. Rice

Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans

Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

Robert A. Brady

Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

Ben R. Lujan

Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress

Gregory Meeks

Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Lisa Blunt Rochester

Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress

Wm Lacy Clay

Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

Nita M. Lowey

Nita Lowey
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke

Yvette Clarke
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Peter Welch

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

Robin L. Kelly

Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline

David Cicilline
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano

Grace Napolitano
Member of Congress

Brenda Lawrence

Brenda Lawrence
Member of Congress

Grace Meng

Grace Meng
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle

Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney

Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress

Charlie Crist

Charlie Crist
Member of Congress

Anthony Brown

Anthony Brown
Member of Congress

Rosa DeLauro

Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

Judy Chu

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

Michelle Lujan Grisham

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

Al Lawson

Al Lawson
Member of Congress

Val B. Demings

Val Butler Demings
Member of Congress