



Working to Reduce Poverty in America.

June 8, 2017,

United States House of Representatives

Dear Representative,

I write to you today on behalf of Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) to urge you to support passage of the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act - PROMESA (HR 5278).

CCUSA represents more than 177 diocesan Catholic Charities member agencies and affiliated organizations around the country, including our member agency Caritas de Puerto Rico. The ongoing crisis in Puerto Rico has had a devastating impact on the people of Puerto Rico with has seen the demands for services and programs at Caritas de Puerto Rico expand 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. The demand for assistance continues despite Caritas de Puerto Rico operating 77 soup kitchens and serving 56,649 meals to families in need.

This reality is a reminder that those suffering under this crisis are those who least contributed to its creation. While the bill includes provisions which could be improved, the legislation provides a first step forward for providing the people of Puerto Rico with the necessary space to responsibly restructure their debt and rebuilding their economy.

I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna J. Markham, OP, PhD".

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

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

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