

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:

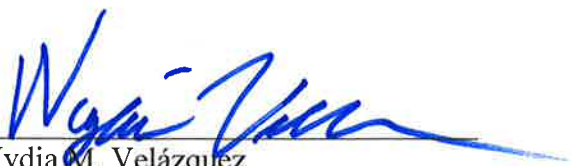
We write to urge immediate congressional action to address the funding crisis facing Puerto Rico's health care system. As you know, Puerto Rico's Medicaid program receives a lower reimbursement rate than mainland states. This low rate is being temporarily supplemented by a federal grant that expires 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.

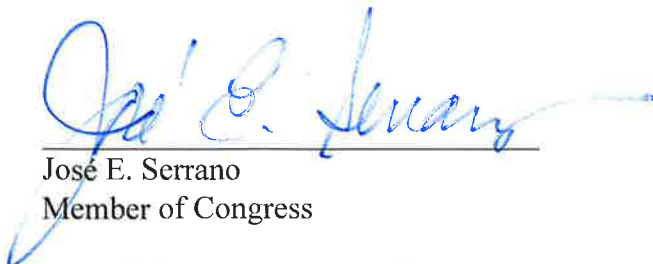
The Puerto Rican Task Force established by PROMESA reached bipartisan consensus in support of fiscally-responsible legislation to address the impending Medicaid cliff. Enacting such legislation immediately is essential to provide Puerto Rico's Medicaid agency with the certainty it needs to engage with 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,



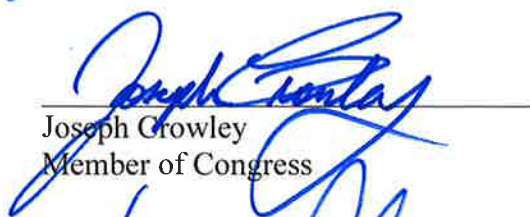
Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



José E. Serrano  
Member of Congress



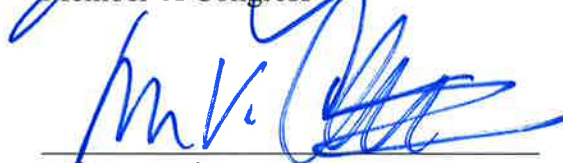
Steny H. Hoyer  
Member of Congress



Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress



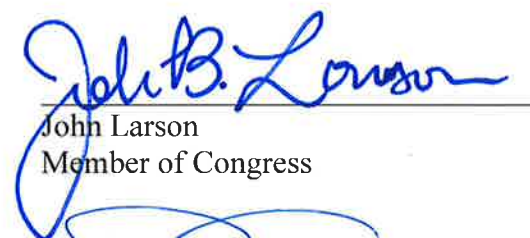
James E. Clyburn  
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutiérrez  
Member of Congress



Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress



John Larson  
Member of Congress



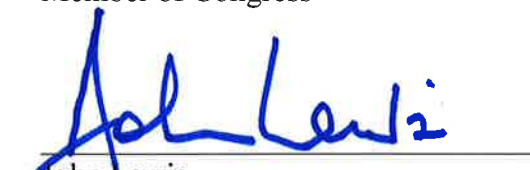
Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress



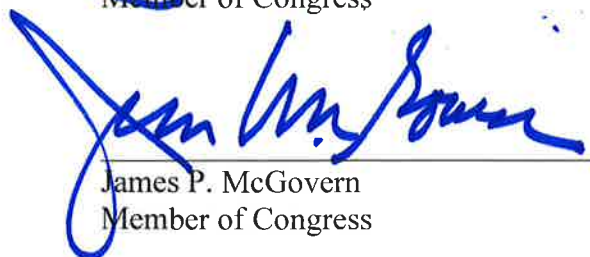
Tony Cardenas  
Member of Congress



John Lewis  
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Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



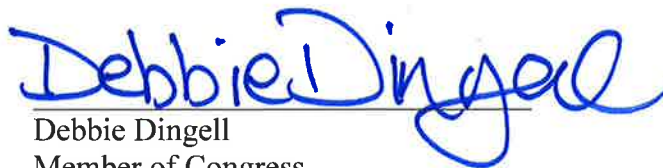
Hakeem Jeffries  
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Alma Adams  
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Betty McCollum  
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Debbie Dingell  
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Karen Bass  
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Jackie Speier  
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Ed Perlmutter  
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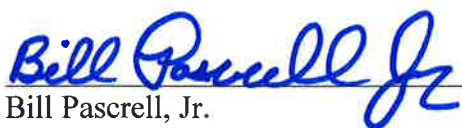
Lucille Roybal-Allard  
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Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress



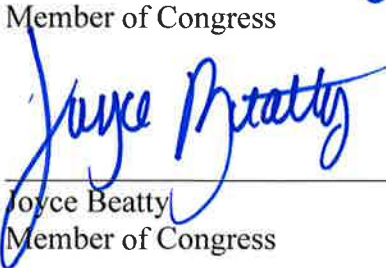
Kathy Castor  
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Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



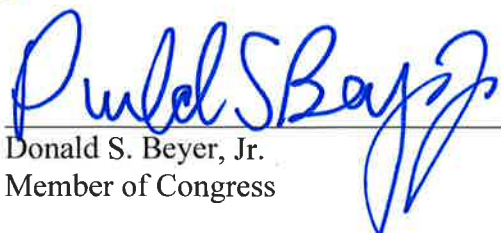
Tulsi Gabbard  
Member of Congress



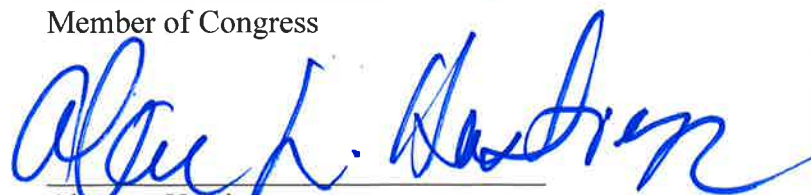
Joyce Beatty  
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Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer, Jr.  
Member of Congress



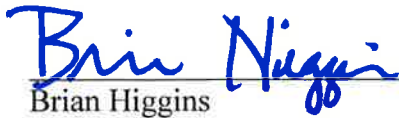
Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



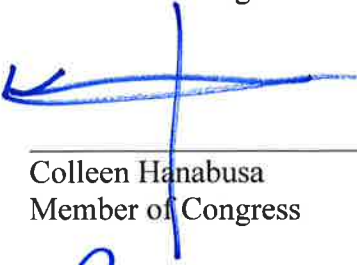
Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



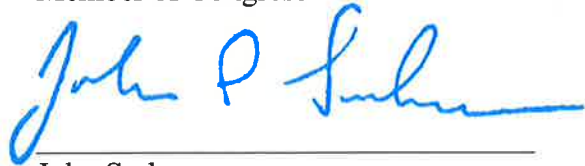
Colleen Hanabusa  
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress



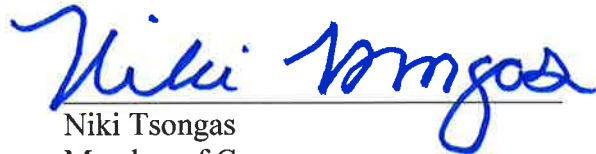
Louise Slaughter  
Member of Congress



John Sarbanes  
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress



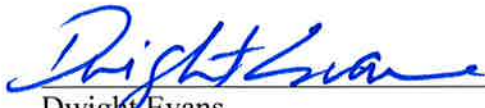
Niki Tsongas  
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Norma J. Torres  
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Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



Robert A. Brady  
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee  
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Doris Matsui

Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress

Ben R. Lujan

Ben Ray Lujan  
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Gregory Meeks

Gregory Meeks  
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Jerrold Nadler

Jerrold Nadler  
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Lisa Blunt Rochester

Lisa Blunt Rochester  
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Wm Lacy Clay

Wm. Lacy Clay  
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Nita M. Lowey

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Yvette D. Clarke

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Jan Schakowsky

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Peter Welch

Peter Welch  
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Robin L. Kelly

Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline

David Cicilline  
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano

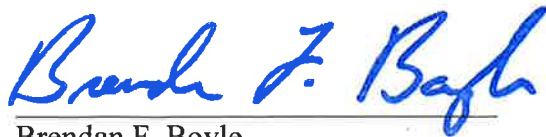
Grace Napolitano  
Member of Congress

Brenda Lawrence

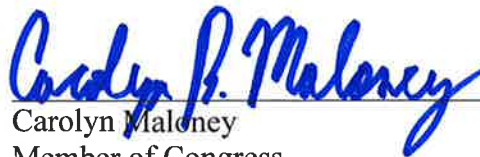
Brenda Lawrence  
Member of Congress

Grace Meng

Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



Carolyn Maloney  
Member of Congress



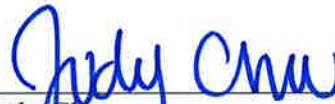
Charlie Crist  
Member of Congress



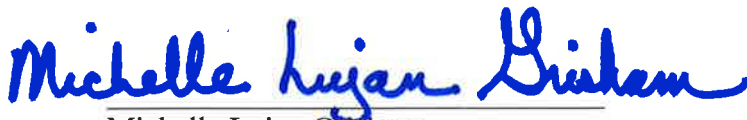
Anthony Brown  
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



Al Lawson  
Member of Congress



Val Butler Demings  
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