



June 8<sup>th</sup> 2016

Dear Member of Congress,

I am writing on behalf of the United Church of Christ's Justice and Witness Ministries. The UCC is a denomination of close to one million members here in the U.S. with historic connections and partners with churches and people of faith in Puerto Rico. We are also one of the founding member organizations of Jubilee USA which has been leading faith efforts to address the debt crisis in Puerto Rico.

I write to indicate our organizational support support for H.R. 5278, the "Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA), as well as the Jolly-Curbelo Amendment which would address the challenge of child poverty in Puerto Rico.

Nearly 57 percent of children in Puerto Rico live under the poverty line, almost three times the rate on the US mainland. While 11% of children on the mainland live in high poverty areas, in Puerto Rico, the figure is 80%. Puerto Rico's debt crisis is a humanitarian crisis with a child's face, and I am encouraged Congress is advancing legislation to address it.

As a faith community, we affirm Jesus' call to care for the "least of these." We see addressing child poverty in Puerto Rico and in all places as an example of how we can live out Jesus' call. Thank you for your work to address the debt crisis in Puerto Rico and for making child poverty a priority in this effort. We are sending out constituent messages on this issue, but please let us know how else we can be of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Neuroth', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Rev. Michael Neuroth  
Policy Advocate for International Issues  
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries