



# CONFEDERACIÓN ESTUDIANTIL NACIONAL

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May 20, 2020

Mr. Raúl M. Grijalva  
Chairman  
Natural Resources Committee  
Congress of the United States of America

Congressman Grijalva,

Greetings. Since the approval of the PROMESA law, we have been aware of the socioeconomical impact this measure has had on Puerto Rico. Even though its intention is evident, there has not been any significant growth or development in the economic sector for the island since its approval; instead, it's been rendering the people of Puerto Rico to previously unseen austerity measures in the past years. For the up and coming generations of Puerto Ricans, the effects on health and education have proven adverse; particularly endangering one of the key factors in the development of future professionals in the island, the University of Puerto Rico system (UPR). We are also aware of the intentions of amendment to the PROMESA law by means of a bill presented by you and your team.

On behalf of the National Student Confederation (CEN, by its acronym in Spanish), the representative body that groups members of the eleven student councils across the UPR system, we address you in support of the paragraph in the amendment bill regarding the UPR, which establishes the following:

“Until the termination of the Oversight Board for Puerto Rico pursuant to section 209, the Fiscal Plan for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Fiscal Plan for the University of Puerto Rico, developed under section 201, shall include an annual allocation of public funds to the University of Puerto Rico in an amount calculated under the funding formula of Law 2–1966 or \$800,000,000, whichever is greater, to allow the University of Puerto Rico to fulfill its major role as an essential public



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service and to comply effectively with its obligations and accreditation requirements.”

We believe that the University of Puerto Rico has long demonstrated its value and should be declared an essential service, for all its contributions to the island. The stability of this primary center of education in Puerto Rico can be achieved with the restitution of the formula or the minimum balance awarded as established in the paragraph above.

We have witnessed the damages that the austerity measures the Fiscal Oversight Management Board (FOMB) have caused on the island, and as constantly stated in previous occasions, we remain positioned against it. We equally make the call, so that efforts be put into the abolishment of the PROMESA law, as well as commencing a process of decolonization for the island of Puerto Rico; as the interference of the FOMB has proved detrimental to the wellbeing of our Island.

However, we believe that amendments to the PROMESA Bill such as the one established in this letter can ameliorate the conditions that Puerto Rican people have been exposed to and serve as a way to safeguard the excellent education system we are a proud part of, in the meanwhile.

Cordially,

Rady Lugo Estrada  
General Secretary of CEN