

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 20, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

As you work to develop the next legislative package to address the COVID-19 crisis, we write today to urge you to include H.R. 5687, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief and Puerto Rico Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2020, which the House of Representatives passed on February 7.

In response to the worst earthquake Puerto Rico experienced in a century, this legislation provided \$4.89 billion in emergency spending to fund a broad range of disaster recovery activities, including educational needs, repairs to transportation infrastructure, community development, energy needs, and nutrition assistance. As you know, the Senate has yet to act on this critical legislation, and our fellow Americans in Puerto Rico are struggling with the COVID-19 crisis while they recover from the devastating earthquakes, as well as the destruction caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017.

As Puerto Rico Governor Wanda Vázquez Garced wrote to you on April 8, additional federal resources are needed to meet the infrastructure, physical health, and mental health needs of U.S. citizens throughout Puerto Rico. H.R. 5687 allows for comingling of funds provided in that legislation and previous emergency supplementals. As such, the legislation would allow Puerto Rico to use these funds for recovery efforts related to several crises, including the coronavirus pandemic. Including this legislation in the next coronavirus aid package would be a significant step in the right direction toward providing critical aid to our fellow Americans in Puerto Rico.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with you to provide for the immediate, increased needs in Puerto Rico.

Sincerely,



Darren Soto
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

Jesús G. “Chuy” Garcia
Member of Congress

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Nydia M. Velázquez
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