

COMMONWEALTH OF  
PUERTO RICO  
GOVERNOR

September 20, 2013

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
Chairwoman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry  
133 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Stabenow:

I write to thank you for meeting with my Secretary of Agriculture, and your continuing support for the cash assistance for low income households currently provided by the Nutrition Assistance Program ("NAP").

If the elimination of the cash assistance contemplated by the bill approved yesterday by the U.S. House of Representatives - H.R. 3102 - moves forward, it will be very detrimental for hundreds of thousands of Puerto Rico's neediest families. The livelihood of recipients of supplemental nutrition assistance benefits in Puerto Rico depends on such cash assistance.

H.R. 3102 is an attack on our most vulnerable and neediest families. As you know, almost half of the beneficiaries of NAP are children. Moreover, the elimination of the cash assistance will be particularly harmful to our rural communities where small mom and pop shops are only market available, computerized systems for card transactions are scarce and cash is the currency by necessity.

In Puerto Rico the nutrition of almost 1.5 million people depends on NAP. Let us continue working together; I am confident that under your leadership a Farm Bill that is just with our poor shall eventually be passed.

Cordially,

The Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico,



Alejandro J. García-Padilla