United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

BILL NELSON
FLORIDA

January 29, 2016

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As you prepare to release the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget, I write to urge you to include meaningful proposals to help Puerto Rico emerge from its ongoing economic crisis.

Forty-one percent of the 3.5 million American citizens in Puerto Rico are living in poverty—well above the national average. The situation is made worse by physician shortages, a Medicaid program facing chronic funding shortfalls, and across-the-board disparities in Federal health programs.

Without access to appropriate restructuring tools for its municipalities and public entities, Puerto Rico lacks the authority to adjust its debt under the supervision of a federal bankruptcy judge. A solution is needed as soon as possible, or Puerto Rico's humanitarian and economic crisis will only worsen.

I appreciate the steps you have taken so far to address the fiscal crisis in Puerto Rico, and I look forward to working with you on ways to provide relief for the citizens of Puerto Rico. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Bill Nelson