

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

December 9, 2010

The Honorable Cecilia Muñoz
Co-Chair, The President's Task Force on Puerto Rico's Status
Director, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
The White House
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Director Muñoz:

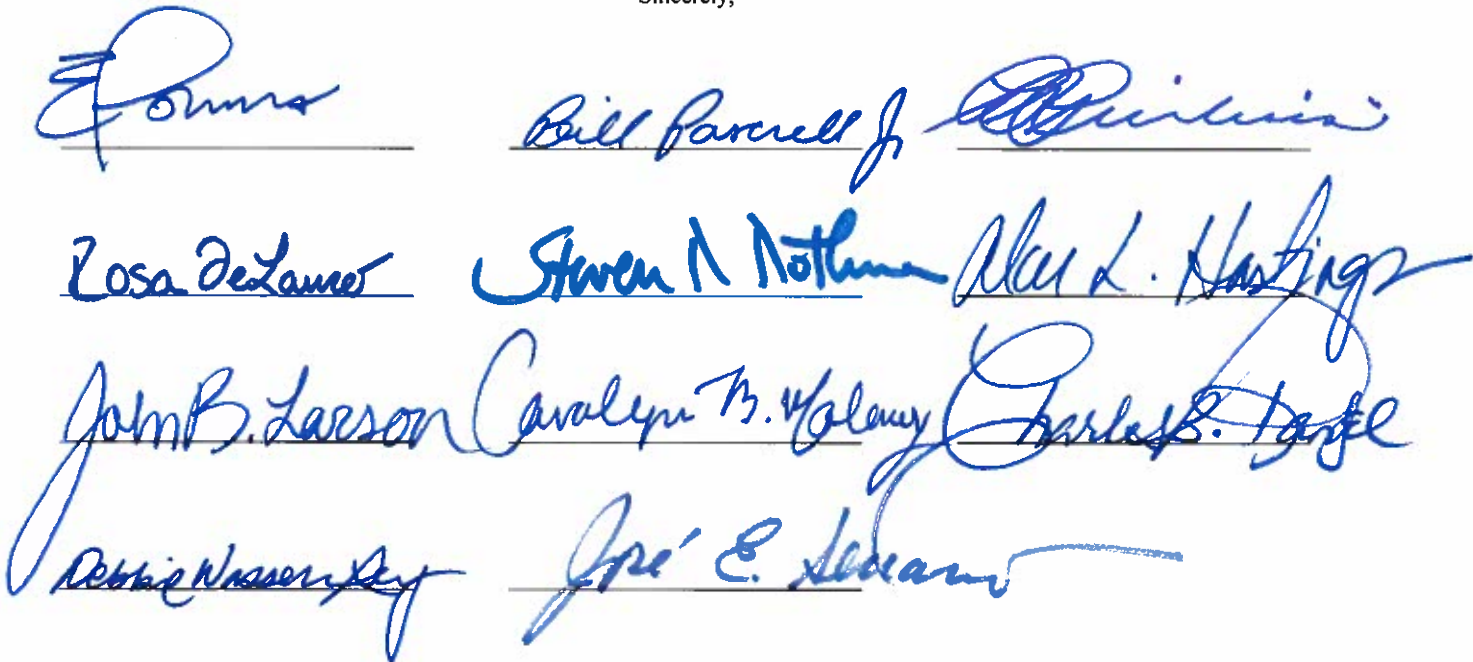
We are writing to request that the President's Task Force on Puerto Rico's Status, as part of its forthcoming report, recommend the full extension of the refundable earned income tax credit (EITC) and the refundable child tax credit (CTC) to residents of Puerto Rico. Both of these credits play a significant role in keeping working families and children in the rest of the United States out of poverty or from slipping into deeper poverty, especially in these difficult economic times. For both moral and practical reasons, we believe these two important policy tools should be made available to the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico.

As you know, the current global recession has hit residents of Puerto Rico particularly hard. The Island's unemployment rate, which stood at 15.7% as of October 2010, is significantly higher than that of any state. Moreover, Puerto Rico's child poverty rate—over 55%—is roughly three times the national average.

Puerto Rico's tough economic challenges require concrete and creative policy responses. President Obama has already called for fully extending these refundable tax credits to the American citizens of Puerto Rico. The Task Force has a perfect opportunity to make good on the President's commitment by recommending in its final report that these policy changes be included in the President's Fiscal Year 2012 Budget.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,


Bill Barwell Jr. Cecilia Muñoz
Rosa DeLauro Steven A. Rothman Alan L. Hastings
John B. Larson Carolyn B. Maloney Charles B. Stenfelz
Debbie Wasserman Schultz Joe E. Sosa