

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-5401

The Honorable Pedro R. Pierluisi
One-Minute Floor Speech
H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
January 27, 2009

Madame Chair:

I rise in strong support of H.R. 1. As the Congressional Budget Office has just confirmed, the bill will have a very positive impact on our nation's economy. I am particularly grateful for the inclusion of Puerto Rico and the other U.S. territories in most of the bill's provisions. The territories are an integral part of the United States and thus deserve to benefit fully from our ongoing efforts to revitalize the economy.

As the final version of this bill is worked out, I will continue to seek more equitable treatment for the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico in those few areas where I believe improvements should still be made. For example, I will continue to make the case that Puerto Rico should receive an increase in Medicaid funding that better reflects the Island's legitimate needs, and does more to address the negative impact that the current spending cap is having on the Commonwealth's finances.

Thank you Madame Chair.