

United States Senate

June 3, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leaders McConnell and Schumer:

As you consider additional legislation to alleviate the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, we write to urge you to include our *Child Tax Credit Equity for Puerto Rico Act* (S. 698) in any such package. This common sense legislative solution has bipartisan support in both the House and Senate. If enacted, this bill would significantly reduce child poverty on an island plagued by recent hurricanes, earthquakes and the COVID-19 pandemic and where nearly 60 percent of its children live below the federal poverty line.

Current law allows families in Puerto Rico to be eligible for the federal child tax credit only when they have their third child. The first two children born to American families living in Puerto Rico never qualify for the tax credit. This long-standing discrepancy is fundamentally unfair to Puerto Rican families who should have access to the same tax incentive as families who live on the mainland.

As you know, in 2016, the Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico report included a bipartisan recommendation that Congress provide parity in the child tax credit (CTC) for American families living on the island. We hope that Congress will heed this recommendation by enacting this critical reform.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Respectfully,



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Marco Rubio
United States Senator