



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

January 10, 2018

The Honorable R. Alexander Acosta
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Acosta:

We are writing to urge you to extend the deadline for individuals applying for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) as a result of Hurricane Maria. The storm caused extensive damage in Puerto Rico, and Puerto Ricans are still in the beginning stages of recovery. The current deadline is set for January 11, 2018, but an extension is necessary to allow individuals sufficient time to apply for this much needed assistance.

Hurricane Maria devastated the island of Puerto Rico, destroying its infrastructure, homes, hospitals, schools, and businesses. More than 40 percent of the island remains without power, and local businesses are permanently closing as a result.

As businesses continue to struggle after the hurricane, Puerto Rican workers need support systems in place as they search for and transition to new employment opportunities. We urge your department to extend the deadline to apply for DUA and to provide necessary assistance to Puerto Ricans to ensure they have access to this program.

Thank you for your attention to this important request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Nelson".

Bill Nelson
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marco Rubio".

Marco Rubio
United States Senator