



## Hermandad de Empleados Exentos No Docentes de la Universidad de Puerto Rico

June 24, 2020

Hon. Raúl Grijalva, President  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
United States House of Representatives  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Grijalva,

The Brotherhood of Non-Exempt Employees of the University of Puerto Rico (HEEND) is a syndical organization that represents over 3,500 Employees of the University of Puerto Rico (UPR). We recognize your efforts to amend PROMESA not only for Puerto Rico, but for the UPR.

The University of Puerto Rico is the only public university in the island with eleven (11) campuses. Our Institution has been severely affected by PROMESA implementations and the mayor budget cuts that the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico has imposed The UPR It has never been considered an essential service.

We endorse your bill **H.R.6975** whose purpose is:

*To amend the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act or "PROMESA", and for other purposes.*

HEEND emphatically supports the amending PROMESA to include **SEC. 213. FUNDING FOR OPERATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO.**, which reads:

*"Until the termination of the Oversight Board for Puerto Rico pursuant to section 209, the Fiscal Plan for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Fiscal Plan for the University of Puerto Rico, developed under section 201, shall include an annual allocation of public funds to the University of Puerto Rico in an amount calculated under the funding formula of Law 2-1966 or \$800,000,000, whichever is greater, to allow the University of Puerto Rico to fulfill its major role as an essential public service and to comply effectively with its obligations and accreditation requirements."*

***¡Luchamos Para Vencer!***

We understand that these amendments will help to relieve the burden of the extreme measures imposed by PROMESA and will help recover our economy. Puerto Rico has been affected by a lot of situations that have struck its economy: Hurricane Maria, the Seismic events from January 2020, which are still impacting the island and now the COVID-19 pandemic. We strongly believe and endorsed that the public debt of the Government of Puerto Rico should be audited to cancel its unsecured debt.

We also support that funds should be prioritized for those essential services such as education, public health care and pensions payments.

However, we must emphasize that if this amendment is not approved, UPR will be facing additional cutbacks that will harm irreparably the stability and accreditation of the University of Puerto Rico, leaving thousands of students without access to higher education and becomes the professionals who will help our economy to recover.

Once again, we thank you and all the representatives that have worked to present these amendments to oppose the austerity measures we are living in Puerto Rico.

Sincerely,



Jannell M. Santana Andino, ESQ  
President