



COMMONWEALTH OF
PUERTO RICO
GOVERNOR

ALEJANDRO J. GARCÍA-PADILLA

January 14, 2015

Dear Representative

I write to you regarding the recent statement by the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico on the floor of Congress. As you know, the \$2.5 million appropriation that Congress approved for a plebiscite on Puerto Rico's political status provides that the process will be led by the Puerto Rico State Elections Commission. To such effect, I requested the Legislative Assembly to move forward with enacting legislation that enables a self-determination process that complies with the recommendations in the Report by The President's Task Force on Puerto Rico's Status dated March 2011 and the criteria set forth in the Puerto Rico plebiscite appropriation.

It is the public policy of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico that any self-determination process must be commenced by the people of Puerto Rico. That is why I have publicly stated that we are moving forward with a plebiscite that is fair, inclusive and approved by the US Justice Department, as requested by Congress. The proposal by the Resident Commissioner not only requires an amendment by Congress but usurps the powers of the Commonwealth and the right of the people of Puerto Rico to initiate the process on their future political status.

I do agree with the Resident Commissioner that the massive exodus of Puerto Ricans to the United States is one of the most pressing issues we face. Washington should be more focused on Puerto Rico's most urgent needs, that is, creating jobs and improving public safety. These are the root causes of this exodus and where we should be devoting our greatest efforts.

I thank you for your commitment to a fair plebiscite process by the people of Puerto Rico.

Cordially,

The Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alejandro J. García-Padilla'.

Alejandro J. García-Padilla