

HM 601

2016

1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States,
3 urging Congress to enact legislation to promote
4 economic recovery in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

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6 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the State of
7 Florida share a strong cultural bond and are important trade
8 partners, and

9 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico has experienced a
10 prolonged and difficult economic recession that has led to mass
11 unemployment in Puerto Rico and decreased trade opportunities
12 with the State of Florida, and

13 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico has public debts
14 in excess of \$72 billion, which continue to cripple Puerto
15 Rico's ability to improve and sustain economic growth, and

16 WHEREAS, the 1984 amendments to the United States
17 Bankruptcy Code prohibit the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico from
18 authorizing its municipalities and public utilities to file for
19 bankruptcy relief under Chapter 9 of the code, and

20 WHEREAS, the United States Bankruptcy Code amendments
21 require Puerto Rico's municipalities and public utilities to
22 engage in piecemeal negotiations with each of their creditors,
23 rather than consolidating debt and developing a comprehensive
24 plan for repayment, and

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25 WHEREAS, the citizens of Puerto Rico are suffering greatly
 26 due to their government's inability to renegotiate the terms of
 27 this debt under a comprehensive plan, and

28 WHEREAS, the United States Government has an obligation to
 29 promote and assist the economic prosperity of the Commonwealth
 30 of Puerto Rico as an important territory of our nation, and

31 WHEREAS, the United States Congress eliminated a tax
 32 exemption for manufacturers from Section 936 of the Internal
 33 Revenue Code, greatly contributing to an increase in
 34 unemployment in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and

35 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico would greatly
 36 benefit from new ideas and programs that promote economic
 37 development to bring high paying jobs back to Puerto Rico, and

38 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the State of
 39 Florida would both benefit from Puerto Rico's renewed economic
 40 prosperity, NOW, THEREFORE,

41
 42 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

43
 44 That the Congress of the United States is urged to enact
 45 legislation to promote economic recovery in the Commonwealth of
 46 Puerto Rico, including:

47 (1) Allowing the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to authorize
 48 its municipalities and public utilities to file for bankruptcy
 49 relief under Chapter 9 of the United States Bankruptcy Code.

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50 (2) Allowing the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to propose a
51 comprehensive plan to pay municipal and public utility debts
52 under Chapter 9 of the United States Bankruptcy Code.

53 (3) Establishing programs to encourage economic
54 development to promote increased manufacturing, trade, and
55 employment in Puerto Rico.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
57 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
58 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
59 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
60 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.