



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 25, 2018

Director Mick Mulvaney  
The Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Mulvaney,

The American citizens of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands have struggled to restore basic services, such as electricity, water, and telecommunications since Hurricanes Maria and Irma devastated the Caribbean nearly four months ago.

I recently returned from an official visit to Puerto Rico and witnessed the devastation and recovery first hand. While the spirit and perseverance of the Puerto Rican people truly inspired me, we as the federal government – and particularly the Trump Administration – have not secured even the most basic level of support during this difficult time. The Governor of Puerto Rico requested \$94 billion for recovery efforts in November. Your office requested a fraction of that amount in 2017, and Republicans in Congress have refused to appropriate adequate funds to date.

Now is the time to step up and support our fellow citizens in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands as they continue to rebuild. As Americans, we pride ourselves when we unite in the wake of the unthinkable. Partisan politics has no role to play when human dignity and survival are on the line. After seeing the devastation and recovery efforts first hand, I can attest to the level of support needed for these efforts. The Administration's funding request is woefully inadequate and the political gamesmanship of Republicans in Congress has prevented us from fulfilling our obligations to date. I look to you as Director of the Office of Management and Budget to come to the table in good faith for our fellow citizens.

To that end, I am seeking some basic data about the recovery process and the Administration's response to Hurricanes Maria and Irma in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands:

1. As of today, how many hospitals in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands lack permanent power sources or water? What is the Administration's estimate for when these facilities will return to permanent power sources? What is the Administration doing to rebuild Puerto Rico's power grid?
2. As of today, how many dialysis facilities in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands lack permanent power sources or water? What is the Administration's estimate for when these facilities will return to permanent power sources?

3. How many hospitals have physical damage (mold, structural defects) that prevent full operations (e.g., operating rooms are unavailable or limited)? What is the process for identifying these problems and the timeframe for fixing them?
4. Has the Administration identified types of medical care that are unavailable or limited in Puerto Rico and/or the U.S. Virgin Islands at this time (e.g., oncology services or other specialized operations)? What is the Administration's plan for restoring resident access to these crucial services?
5. Has the Administration taken an inventory of health professionals who have left the islands for the mainland? Has the Administration identified gaps in access to certain primary or specialty care providers? What tools can the Administration employ to incentivize providers to remain, return, or relocate to Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands?
6. As of today, how many pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities are not yet fully operational in Puerto Rico? How many are facing the risk of plant closure as a result of damage sustained from Hurricanes Maria and Irma? What is the Administration doing to prevent drug shortages and job loss that may result from any manufacturing shortfalls?
7. Does the Administration expect a return of the same number of pharmaceutical and health industry jobs once damage is repaired and facilities are fully functional again?
8. How is the Administration planning to address the growing mental health challenges stemming from the initial and ongoing trauma associated with these devastating hurricanes? What is the ratio of mental health professionals to residents, and what tools can the Administration use to increase access to mental health services?
9. What is the cost estimate of the damage to hospitals (and, separately, other health provider facilities) and has the Administration identified any providers that will be unable to rebuild due to lack of funding?

We all have an interest in restoring basic services to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and rebuilding on a stronger foundation to help prevent this level of devastation in the future. I look forward to your answers to these questions and working with you and your staff on this important work moving forward. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress