

By Senator Arrington

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Senate Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States,
urging Congress to establish an end date for the
Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto
Rico.

WHEREAS, in 2016, the United States Congress enacted the
Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act
(PROMESA), establishing the Financial Oversight and Management
Board for Puerto Rico to oversee the restructuring of Puerto
Rico's public debt and manage the island's fiscal plans, and

WHEREAS, nearly a decade later, the board continues to
exert sweeping authority over the island's fiscal policies,
raising serious concerns about the erosion of local democratic
governance and self-determination for Puerto Ricans, and

WHEREAS, while Puerto Rico has made progress in
restructuring its debt, restoring access to capital markets, and
implementing fiscal reforms, the continued operation of the
board without a defined end date poses a threat to long-term
recovery, fiscal autonomy, and democratic accountability, and

WHEREAS, the residents of Puerto Rico are United States
citizens, and Puerto Ricans deserve the same rights to self-
governance as the citizens of any other nation, and

WHEREAS, austerity measures imposed under the board's
oversight have severely undermined public services, particularly
in education, health care, and municipal infrastructure, with
devastating consequences for the most vulnerable populations,
and

WHEREAS, the University of Puerto Rico, a cornerstone of

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30 the island's public education system and a pathway to economic
31 mobility, has suffered funding cuts of over 50 percent,
32 jeopardizing its mission and accessibility, and

33 WHEREAS, deep reductions to the municipal equalization fund
34 have destabilized local governments across the island, impairing
35 their ability to deliver essential services and maintain public
36 infrastructure, and

37 WHEREAS, over 600,000 Puerto Ricans have migrated to the
38 continental United States since the board's creation, a mass
39 exodus fueled by rising costs of living, deteriorating public
40 services, and limited economic opportunities, and

41 WHEREAS, recovery from natural disasters, including
42 Hurricanes María and Fiona, a series of earthquakes, and the
43 COVID-19 pandemic, has been delayed by federal disbursement
44 bottlenecks and onerous approval processes controlled by the
45 board, and

46 WHEREAS, the indefinite existence of the board undermines
47 Puerto Rico's fiscal sovereignty, perpetuates dependency, and
48 erodes public trust in government institutions, and

49 WHEREAS, Florida is home to one of the largest Puerto Rican
50 communities in the United States, with over 1.3 million Puerto
51 Rican residents who maintain deep familial, cultural, and
52 economic ties to the island and are directly impacted by
53 policies enacted by the board, NOW, THEREFORE,

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55 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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57 That the Congress of the United States is urged to:

58 (1) Establish a definitive end date for the operation of

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59 the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico.

60 (2) Place the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority under
61 Chapter 9 bankruptcy.

62 (3) Ensure a transition toward full fiscal autonomy and
63 local democratic governance in Puerto Rico.

64 (4) Promote economic self-actualization and just recovery
65 efforts that are community-driven and accountable to Puerto
66 Ricans on the island.

67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State dispatch
68 copies of this memorial to the President of the United States,
69 to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of
70 the United States House of Representatives, and to each member
71 of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.