



EDDIE BAZA CALVO
Governor

RAY TENORIO
Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Governor of Guam.

March 24, 2016

The Honorable Jacob J. Lew
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

Hafa Adai Secretary Lew:

As the Obama administration and United States Congress get closer to finalizing plans to help resolve Puerto Rico's fiscal crisis, I am writing again to seek support to include language that provides Medicaid, Medicare, and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) equity to the U.S. Territories. It will address the unequal treatment and funding disparity of the territories in these areas.

In my October 23, 2015 letter to President Obama, I pointed out that insufficient and unstable funding for Medicaid has contributed not only to Puerto Rico's fiscal challenges, but has had the same effect on Guam and the other territories. Just as Puerto Rico has capped Medicaid funding, fewer benefits, and a lesser contribution from the federal government than the rest of the nation, so too are these issues mirrored in Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa.

Guam has also struggled with the lack of reimbursement from the Earned Income Tax Credit. For several years now, EITC payments have accounted for almost half of total annual tax returns on Guam. Reconsideration from the administration and the United States Congress to allow reimbursement of dispersed EITC will greatly help our economic growth.

I am available to discuss these issues at your earliest convenience. Your help on this matter has an important impact on the health and wellbeing of Guam and the territories.

Sincerely,

EDDIE BAZA CALVO
Governor of Guam

cc: Sylvia Burwell, Secretary of Health and Human Services
Jeff Zeints, Director, NEC
Esther Kia'aina, Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas, Department of Interior
Senator Lisa Murkowski, Chair, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Senator Maria Cantwell, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Congressman Don Young, Chairman, House Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs
Congressman Raul Ruiz, House Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs

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