



June 13, 2018

William C. Thompson, Jr.
Chairman
The Board of Trustees
City University of New York
The Office of the Secretary
205 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017

RE: Extension of CUNY Credit Program for Puerto Rican and U.S. Virgin Island Evacuees

Dear City University of New York Board of Trustees,

We are writing to request that the City University of New York (CUNY) continue providing evacuees from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands access to the in-state tuition credit program. Almost a year after Hurricanes Maria and Irma ravaged Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, millions of Americans continue facing the dire consequences of the natural disaster and the shamefully inefficient and uncoordinated response from our federal government. Senator Rivera was pleased to learn at the Governor's New York Stands with Puerto Rico Rebuilding and Reconstructing Committee that the program is expected to be extended. We look forward to the official vote on June 25.

In Puerto Rico, families are struggling with an unreliable power grid, water sanitation, and closing schools as Puerto Ricans continue to flee the island to the mainland United States in search of better living conditions. Recently, it was revealed that as many as 4,645 Puerto Ricans have likely perished due to Hurricane Maria, either in the immediate aftermath of the storm or from the conditions generated following the wreckage of the island's health facilities. Considering the inaction from the federal government, it is critical that state governments continue to stand in solidarity to provide support to those citizens on the island as well as those who were evacuated who remain ignored and overlooked. This is especially true of New York State, since it hosts one of the largest Puerto Rican communities across the country.



**SENATOR
GUSTAVO RIVERA**
33RD DISTRICT

**NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE**
AL BANY, NEW YORK 12247



RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
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CORRECTION
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FINANCE
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INSURANCE
LABOR
MENTAL HEALTH AND
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
RULES

Since Hurricane Maria, the Fiscal Control Board overseeing Puerto Rico's economy has imposed significant fiscal cuts to the island's budget including to its already financially challenged public university system. In addition, the Board decided to double the cost of tuition to make up for the expenses of the recovery efforts and to help counter Puerto Rico's extreme debt. The U.S. Virgin Island's fiscal shortages have also been stagnating recovery.

Therefore, we are writing to urge the City University of New York Board of Trustees to continue supporting those students from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands who were displaced by these hurricanes, and vote to extend the in-state tuition credit program for the City University of New York for the 2018-2019 academic year. In that way, we are ensuring that these students continue pursuing their education without missing precious time in completing their academic degrees.

As CUNY's Board of Trustees votes today on a resolution to extend this critical program, we would like to express our sincere appreciation for to the work CUNY has done and continues to do in protecting and supporting our Puerto Rican and Virgin Islander brothers and sisters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "G. Rivera".

Senator Gustavo Rivera
New York State Senate
33rd Senate District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Michael Gianaris".

Senator Michael Gianaris
12th Senate District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "James Sanders Jr.".

Senator James Sanders Jr.
10th Senate District

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grivera@nysenate.gov



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Senator Liz Kruger
28th Senate District

Handwritten signature of Jose Peralta in black ink.

Senator Jose Peralta
13th Senate District

Handwritten signature of Martin Malavé Dilan in black ink.

Senator Martin Malavé Dilan
18th Senate District

Handwritten signature of Jesse Hamilton in black ink.

Senator Jesse Hamilton
20th Senate District

Handwritten signature of Marisol Alcantara in black ink.

Senator Marisol Alcantara
31st Senate District

Handwritten signature of Brian A. Benjamin in black ink.

Senator Brian A. Benjamin
30th Senate District

Handwritten signature of Toby Ann Stavisky in black ink.

Senator Toby Ann Stavisky
16th Senate District

Handwritten signature of Timothy M. Kennedy in black ink.

Senator Timothy M. Kennedy
63rd Senate district

Handwritten signature of José M. Serrano in black ink.

Senator José M. Serrano
29th Senate District

Handwritten signature of Brad Hoylman in black ink.

Senator Brad Hoylman
27th Senate District



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GUSTAVO RIVERA
33RD DISTRICT

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Senator Diane J. Savino
23rd Senate District

Senator Joseph P. Addabbo Jr.
15th Senate District

Senator Luis R. Sepúlveda
32nd Senate District

Senator Neil D. Breslin
44th Senate District

Senator David Carlucci
38th Senate District

Senator Roxanne J. Persaud
19th Senate District

Senator Brian Kavanagh
26th Senate District

Senator Jamaal T. Bailey
36th Senate District

Senator David J. Valesky
53rd Senate District

Senator Velmanette Montgomery
25th Senate District

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