



AMERICAN PATRIOTS FOR EQUALITY (IGUALDAD)-CIVIL RIGHTS Dennis O. Freytes



## "Canto Claro Como un Gallo Boricua de Manati!"—THE TIME FOR EQUALITY--IS NOW! 7 SEP 2016 (Work in Progress)

TO: PR "PROMESA"- US Congressional Task Force on PR's Economy PR Fiscal Oversight Board US President; US Congress; US Federal-US Supreme Court RE: PROMESA-Puerto Rico Recovery & Prosperity-END Humanitarian Crisis-SUGGESTIONS

#### **Dear Honorable Officials:**

First, we thank the Federal Government for taking the 1<sup>st</sup> Bi-Partisan Step through enacting PROMESA to- resolve the Puerto Rican Fiscal, Debt, Economic, and Humanitarian crisis; other past benevolent actions.

But, millions of US Citizens hope the Federal Government, along with US Puerto Rico's Government, promptly acts to finally resolve the US Territory of Puerto Rico's Fiscal, Debt, and Economic crisis. Also, after 120 years of Congressional inaction, concurrently solve Puerto Rico's un-democratic and discriminatory Territorial-Colonial trite Status (that affects everything Puerto Rico does). Plus, solve the Humanitarian crisis that is creating an Exodus of Puerto Ricons to the States—overtaxing local resources.

#### FACTS are: The truth will liberate you!

OUR US DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE states: ...Governments derive their just powers from the "Consent of the Governed"... Our US "WE THE PEOPLE CONSTITUTION" calls for EQUALITY/ FAIRNESS-Individual Civil Rights for ALL...! Our US Republic's Representative Democracy foundation (building block) is the US Citizen with protected Individual Civil Rights! But, the US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, since 1898, discriminates against US CITIZENS residing in Puerto Rico!

Puerto Ricans (including American Veterans) in Puerto Rico (for about 120 years)--can't Vote for their US President; don't have just representation in their US Congress; no consent of the governed...or full earned benefits-Parity in Federal Laws/Programs (Social Security, MEDICARE, MEDICAID, etc.; equal Funding for Health, Education, Transportation, Security, Housing,...etc. ), nor permanent US Citizenship... - like OTHER US Citizens enjoy!

The Federal Government controls Puerto Rico, under the undemocratic US Territorial Clause-includes: the economy/local market, currency, security, borders, shipping, taxes, earned benefits...; oversees all local laws; can cede PR to another Nation.... Puerto Rico is under the will of our US Congress...

The US Territory of Puerto Rico is a captive Market that contributes to the US MACRO Economy; creation of hundreds of thousands US Jobs. Plus, Puerto Rican-Hispanic Ancestors, traveled from Puerto Rico (Gateway) to find and name Florida; started developing (along with Natives) the now US—107 years before the Pilgrims; fought with Washington in the US Revolution, and other Wars in defense of our US; made many other fine contributions to the our "Union of States"-- in the fields of Science, Defense, Engineering, Arts, Music, etc. Puerto Ricans cherish their US Citizenship; are integrated with their own Boricua Identity to the US (a Nation of Immigrants) way of Life and Liberty!

But, Puerto Ricans (loyal and contributing US Citizens) suffer institutional discrimination; the "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" that includes suppression of Individual Civil/Voting Rights---no "consent of the governed"; a federally undemocratic Territorial Colonial Status for about 120 years! Territories

weren't meant to be forever! **<u>REMEMBER</u>**: in a 2012 **local Puerto Rico Plebiscite**-US Citizens voted for a NON-Territorial Status: **STATEHOOD:** <u>61+%</u>; **INDEPENDENCE:** <u>5%</u>. Puerto Ricans cherish their US Citizenship. In a recent Poll (Aug. 2016): <u>65%</u> voted for Statehood...

<u>BASTA YA</u>! Stop the Political distortion that leads to subjugation of Puerto Ricans- If there is no EQUALITY or Parity in Law or equal application of the US Constitution--there is <u>discrimination</u>! Even if one US Citizen can't vote, is one too many! We must guard against the tyranny of a majority!

<u>Our US President and Puerto Rico's Government</u>, as it makes right, must--advocate, inform, educate, and take all actions (with facts; not political excuses) that include-- strongly ask Congress to take action that ensures Equal US Citizenship; liberates Puerto Ricans... Plus; direct both Justice Departments to fight for Equality; petition the Federal/ US Supreme Courts to not deny US Citizens their basic voting individual Civil Rights... Work with Congress to conduct a non-territorial fair Plebiscite, per below.

<u>CONGRESS</u> should take ACTION- redress an undemocratic wrong: The best final SOLUTION: <u>Conduct a DEMOCRATIC PLEBISCITE</u>- with clear Constitutional <u>NON-TERRITORIAL OPTIONS</u> (that don't confuse)-- which are only two (per US Constitution): STATEHOOD (with STATE Identity and Sovereignty) vs INDEPENDENCE (without or with PACT)! (Please, see example Ballot enclosed.)

**The Federal/ US Supreme Courts** should better interpret the US Constitution (which is the best in the annals of Human History...); give more weight, in Decisions, to the essence of our Representative Democracy (the Constitutional Amendments—consent of the governed-protected Individual Civil Rights) over the trite original undemocratic Territorial Clause (which wasn't meant to be for-ever), and that was written in Racists and discriminatory times--when Women, Hispanics, Blacks,... could NOT VOTE! We OWN our developing US Constitution, not our fore Fathers! Even if one US Citizen (the building block of our representative democracy) can't vote; it's one too many! Let true Justice be served!

# \*<u>THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MUST MAKE RIGHT</u>\*

**SOME RECOMMENDATIONS:** based on a factual research; US Supreme Court Decisions (including Insular Cases-Bidwell Balzac...); other US Jurisprudence; Presidential and Congressional –CBO Office, and other Reports..., it is recommended: LISTEN and ask for constructive input from all!

**Our US President, US Congress, and US Federal/Supreme Courts--** must stop Federal institutional discrimination against Puerto Ricans (loyal and contributing US Citizens) work to resolve the Fiscal, Debt, and Economic problems concurrently with the Territorial Status crisis that doesn't permit Puerto Ricans to fairly compete or liberate the Entrepreneurial Spirit in a Free Market economy...because there is no Parity in Federal Laws; equal-fair application of the US Constitution...etc. TAKE FAIR ACTION (serve not suppress):

**1. "PROMESA"** is a good first step: The Fiscal Oversight Board and Congressional Task Force should understand and look at the whole crisis (Fiscal, Debt, Economy, Status, and Humanitarian Crisis), not just its parts that affect other parts... (the whole is more than the sum of its parts); establish an Advisory Council of Experts (Business, Fiscal, Economic, Status and Others); a Citizens Council of knowledgeable Community Leaders.

\*NOTE: I remain available to Testify; make recommendations; help solve the problems/crisis--fairly! 2. Include Puerto Rico (again) in Chapter 9 Uniformity Act of 1915 (Debt Restructure- Pubic Corporations and Municipalities)...

3. Put in place a debt moratorium (two years)...

**4. Remember, you are dealing with US Citizens, allow Parity in Law for all** including in the about 841 Federal Infrastructure, and other Programs Funding. (PR only receives 50% of Federal Infrastructure Funds, while the States receive 80% or so... Plus, PR can only participate in about 214 programs...) This is discrimination against US Citizens in PR; affects adversely PR's economy which ripples the US MACRO economy—must stop now! Equality for all!

**5. Take other steps to include: Provide equity in** MEDICARE, Social Security, MEDICAID, and other Social programs... Institute the Federal Earned-Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit... as other US Citizens enjoy. The US Citizen (with all rights, earned benefits and responsibilities) comes first! (Un-Fair Federal Funding short falls are a drag on PR's Economy.)

5. Back Up (with small fee) Loans/Bonds issued by Puerto Rico; provide liquidity...; treat Puerto Rico (3.5 million US Citizens), like the Federal Government treated New York, Detroit, Washington DC, and other jurisdictions.

**Example:** New York (9 million US Citizens): from 1975-1986 went through a dire fiscal/ economic crisis. In this case, the Federal Government--backed up or guaranteed New York's loans/ bonds (with fees attached) until New York resolved its fiscal problems; was solvent (paid fees), and was prosperous again (with no cost to the Federal Government or Tax Payers)... NY continued to make major contributions to the MACRO US Economy...

**6. Justly provide US Veterans**- residing in Puerto Rico--all the benefits, programs, and funding other fellow Veterans receive in the States (to include TRICARE-Prime Health Programs; equal Federal Funding, etc.).

7. 1920 Jones Shipping Act-- Legislate to exclude Puerto Rico that creates hundreds of thousands US Jobs; serves as a closed/slave US Market) from this trite un-competitive Act—that raises prices; is bad for consumers; plus, it has other negative impact on the competitive MACRO US Free Market Economy (especially to Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Alaska, and Others that must bear an un-just burden that other States don't bear! (Again, be FAIR.) (US Senator McCain has fought to modify the un-competitive Jones Act.)
8. Federal Business/ HUBZones/ Enterprise Zone-provide economic development incentives-- tied to

Job creation, and other Metrics for impoverished areas...; help jump-start PR's economy...that will bring dividends to the MACRO US Economy....; assist small and medium business...; proved incentives until economic PARITY is achieve with other States...

**9 Take any other steps** to ensure fairness; unleash the Entrepreneurial Spirit to grow Puerto Rico's and our USA MACRO Economy that sets the pace for others to follow; keep the US-- best in the World!

- **\*\*NOTE:** The Federal Government must not side with the special interests, like the "Hedge-Vulture Funds" (that bought much of Puerto Rico's debt for pennies on the dollars). They want to make a killing on the backs of Puerto Ricans—at the expense of a Humanitarian crisis in the making...They should be last in line...; small and pension Investors should be at the front of the line... Remember they took a risk in our Free Market System. But, all should be paid their invested Capital, plus, a discounted interest rate.
- Protect the Pensions of hard working People...; don't lower minimum wage...
- Besides, do not provide other poor excuses that can let the Hedge/ Vulture Funds earned excess profits at the expense of the People, especially the Retired that receive a pension for their hard work... WE must have an organized debt restructure for the good of all the parts, especially the People who should not suffer for the misdeeds of their Government.
- The Federal Government in 1984 unilaterally un-fairly took Puerto Rico out of Code 9 (Debt Restructure) with no reason; and now does not want to provide this option like it provides it to the States/ other US Citizens! Again, this is called DISCRIMINATION!

**10. Federal Oversight**: The Federal Government, in concert with the PR Government, must positively act to resolve the situation directly for the good of its US Citizens... Provide advice and support.

#### Liberate US Territory of Puerto Rico from Colonial Shackles.

**CONGRESS must take ACTION- redress an undemocratic wrong: The best final SOLUTION: Conduct a DEMOCRATIC PLEBISCITE**- with clear Constitutional <u>NON-TERRITORIAL OPTIONS</u> (that don't confuse)-- which are only two (per US Constitution):

- STATEHOOD—Admittance to the US -<u>UNION</u> of STATES- work for the common good... MEANS: STATE Identity and Sovereignty; Permanent US Citizenship; US Constitution; PR State Constitution; ALL rights, earned benefits, responsibilities, and Parity in all Federal Laws;
- **INDEPENDENCE** (without or with a PACT of Free Association);

**MEANS:** PR Citizenship; PR Constitution...; loss of US Citizenship; loss of US rights, benefits (like: Social Security, MEDICARE, MEDICAID...) and Federal Funds (for: Education, Transportation, Health Care, Security, Emergency Management, Human Services...); loss of protection of US Constitution...; PACT- can be terminated by any of the Parts at any time...

The Federal Government, after, almost 120 years of undemocratic control of US Citizens, must NOW do its sacred duty—ENSURE: Equal US Citizenship (with protected Individual Civil Rights-"Consent of the Governed"); EQUAL-FAIR application of the US Constitution (with all rights); Equal treatment-Parity under just laws; Due Process...; advance our Representative Democracy---BREAK Puerto Rico's undemocratic Territorial/ Colonial Shackles!

#### \*The US TERRITORY OF PUERTO RICO-GOVERNMENT MUST TAKE ACTION\*

<u>Concurrently</u>, Puerto Rico's Territorial Government should take actions to streamline Government (be more responsive, effective, efficient, transparent, and compassionate); put its house in order; provide incentives (not just increase Taxes) to boost the economy and create good JOBS; as it transforms distorted politics to recognize the truth about the discriminatory structural Territorial (colonial) Status (that affects everything Puerto Rico does); open a non-partisan dialog--speak with one voice; demand EQUALITY act for the good of all!

The Government of PR has been politicized; is inefficient and fat with around 215,000 employees for 3.5 million People, while for example Florida has about 60,000 employees for 20+ million People. Thus, PR has many times the number of Employees with a lot smaller Population than Florida... Thus:

## 1. <u>Government Reform</u>:

Downsize the size of Puerto Rico's Operational Government (gradually) to less than 70,000; re-train the others for Private/ Entrepreneurial Sector; consolidate the over 132 Government Agencies into about 50; regionalize some Government (State and Local) functions —into about 8 Government Service Regions; decentralize some PR Government control, as appropriate and with safeguards to avoid corruption... (Look at the US County System). (Florida with 20 million People operates with about 40+ Agencies.)...

Reform the Political Campaign System: Allow only contributions from Individual VOTERS not to exceed about \$2,500. No other donations from Business or Organizations. No PACs... No favors for those that contribute...

Down size official municipal Governments from 78 to about \*18 to help eliminate redundancy and corruption: (You can have elected Village/Town Boards Town Mayor/Chairman of the Board/ Commissioners which draw no pay; only some expenses.)

**\*EXAMPLE**: San Juan (Trujillo Alto, Cataño, Guaynabo); Bayamón (Toa Alta, Toa Baja, Naranjito, Comerío); Carolina (Canovanas, Loiza, Juncos); Caguas (Gurabo, Aguas Buenas, San Lorenzo, Cidra) Fajardo (Rio Grande, Luquillo, Ceiba, Vieques, Culebra); Humacao (Naguabo, Las Piedras, Yabucoa, Maunabo); Guayama (Arroyo, Patillas, Cayey, Salinas); Ponce (Juana Díaz, Peñuelas, Guayanilla); Coamo (Santa Isabel, Aibonito, Villalba); Yauco (Sabana Grande, Maricao, Guánica); San Germán (Lajas, Cabo Rojo, Hormigueros); Mayagüez (Añasco, Rincón, Las Marías); Aguadilla (Aguada, Moca, Isabela); Arecibo (Hatillo, Barceloneta, Florida); Utuado (Adjuntas, Jayuya, Ciales); San Sebastián (Lares, Quebradillas, Camuy); Vega Baja (Vega Alta, Manatí, Dorado); Orocovis (Corozal, Morovis, Barranquitas)



- **Prioritize needs**; use modified O-Base Budgeting (make Agencies justify their Budgets);
- Establish a Government Professional Merit System based on metrics and evaluations (nonpartisan); Workfare not Welfare (all abled un-employed work at least 25 hrs. a Week— Community Services...) as the Government coordinates with the Private sector for jobs...
- Streamline/make Government more responsive, effective, efficient, compassionate, and accountable...
- Administer properly the Government Employees' Pension Funds that are about to go bankrupt...
- RE-ORGANIZE Cabinet/ Agencies under:
  - Secretary of Government (Chief of Staff- Plans/ Operations/ Budget...);
  - Sec. of State (External Affairs, Communications, History-Culture...)-Lt. Governor
  - Sec. of Public Security (Police, Emergency Management, 911, Fire Department,... ("Servir y Proteger!")
  - Sec. of Military Affairs and Veterans (PR National Guard; Veterans...)
  - Sec. of the Treasury-Finance
  - Sec. of Economic Development (Jobs/ Commerce/ Tourism/ Agriculture);
  - \*Sec. of Education (Chairman Oversight State Board of Education)
  - Sec. of Infrastructure (includes Engineering, Water, Electricity, Housing, Urban Development, Transportation, Roads....);
  - Sec. of Health Care
  - Sec. Human Resources & Services (Labor; Social Services; Housing, Consumer Services, Recreation; Sports...);
  - Sec. of Justice-Attorney General;
  - Sec. Of Government Evaluation & Performance: Comptroller/ Performance Audits, IG (Inspector General), Consumers Complaints, Omnibus Group Representatives...
     (The Secretary of Government Evaluation & Performance can be elected by the People...)
- **Legislative System** Unicameral: composed of 61 Senator/Representative Members (3 per each of the 18 municipalities-one is the Mayor; 8 at large—from each Government Service Region).
- **PR Supreme Court**: 7 Members; can be re-called by a Vote of the People...

## 2. Fiscal Policies:

- Work with the "Federal Fiscal Board"; not obstruct it...
- End dependency on spiraling high interest rate Loans to pay operating deficits; a growing \$72+Billion Debt;
- Reform the Tax structure (make it simpler—with incentives for those that work and invest)...
- Prioritize needs (essential necessities first: water, electricity, security/Police, health, education, transportation, Social needs (care of children; the indigent...); other nice to have things if the budget allows... Must cut government spending, balance the budget...
- Eliminate the operational and structural debt in the long run...
- Don't over Tax because it can kill the economy...but, provide incentives for capital and business enterprises...etc. that will grow the Economy...; bring in more Revenues...

## 3. Educate/Re-train the Work Force for today's Job Market...

• Establish a seamless and coordinated Education System (under a Sec. of Education/ Chairman Board of Education—4 Commissioners of Education (appointed by Governor; confirmed by Senate)--Pre-K through-12; Vocational Schools; Community Colleges; Universities. (Public, Private or Chartered). Also, non-voting Members (4 Deputy Secretaries). MISSION: Provide seamless oversight of Public and Private Education.

- Plus, establish an Education Advisory Committee (appointed be Governor/ confirmed by Senate) composed of Parent, Community, Business/Jobs, Expert, and Student Representation... (2 Representatives of each Group + Chairman=11) would attend all Education Board Meetings—have a voice; not vote. MISSION: Evaluate present and future JOB MARKET/ NEEDS; Education System performance; and recommend constructive solutions.
- Institute an effective anti-Bulling/ Standards of Conduct Program (in all Grades); ensure Students are protected to seek the truth, learn in an open and peaceful learning environment...
- Start education at Pre-K level-when the Brian starts to be "wired"...
- Establish good education Standards based on the foundation/priorities of: Reading, Writing, STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics); Social Sciences; Personal Affairs (Finance, Communications, Management, Responsibility, Discipline, Standards of Conduct & Tolerance); Critical Thinking-Decision Making...
- Teach to Individual Learning Style (e.g. 4-MAT Learning System); use technology...
- Performance Scholarships (Government/ Public/ Private)

# 4. End Territorial Status:

- Provide stability for investors/capital investment; stem the vast historic exodus of Puerto Ricans (many professionals) to the States (as they vote with their moving feet for equality and better opportunities)...More Puerto Ricans now live in the States (5 million) than in Puerto Rico (3.6 million).
- The Puerto Rico Justice Department should move to stop discrimination...; take ACTION to ensure an Equal US Citizenship...; end Puerto Rico's federally undemocratic Territorial (Colonial) Status. (Fight at the Federal Courts; ask the US Justice Department to join... Be the lead making the Justice system work fairly!
- Move to resolve the structural Status crisis that affects everything Puerto Rico does— STATEHOOD vs INDEPENDENCE... (Please, see above)
- Call Puerto Rico what it is "US Territory"; eliminate references to ELA which is a LIE... on all Stationary and other documents, unless legally required to do so by Federal Regulation... Then, use "US Territory of Puerto Rico" (ELA-Government)...

# 5. <u>Unleash the Entrepreneurial Spirit</u>

- Transform PR's Economy/Jobs from Centralized Government Based to Private Sector/ Business Based:
- Minimize regulations, permit process...;
- Create an <u>incentive based</u> (Investors, Managers; Worker profit sharing)—tempered Free Market economy that is competitive on the US and Global Stages...

I write on behalf of my Parents, and <u>millions</u> of other statutory 2d Class US Citizens. My Mother, Gloria E. Gonzalez Marrero worked hard as a Teacher and Social Worker; my Father Celio Freytes Menendez, is a Combat War Veteran who fought with the famed \*U.S. 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment (Borinqueneers) from Puerto Rico (WW-II/Korea). These hardworking and loyal American Citizen Patriots are among <u>millions</u> of others who live in the archaic US Territory of Puerto Rico. They paid their dues; deserve all rights of equal US Citizenship; a vote to end the Territorial Status; fairness and parity in Federal Laws/ Programs!

The Federal Government (US President, US Congress, and US Supreme Court) must be FAIR in serving ALL loyal US Citizens (under our "We the People" US Constitution); not be their Master!

**IN SUM**, to move forward, the US Federal Government must resolve the Structural problems (includes Status); ensure equal US Citizenship; equal treatment under just laws; cut Puerto Rico's Territorial/ Colonial shackles; concurrently provide parity in law, programs, and benefits as it deals with the PR Government in the current fiscal, debt, economic, and humanitarian crisis! THANKS for all the good things you and Staff do for our beloved USA!

Let's treat all US Citizens fairly; work for the good of all: Family, Community, Puerto Rico, USA, and Humanity! With Truth, Reason, and Right—<u>WE WILL OVERCOME</u>!

## Best Wishes, V/R

Detroutes

# Dennis O. Freytes, American Veteran; Community Servant Leader

\*Master Public Administration (MPA), Master Human Resources (MHR), Bachelor Business Administration (BBA)-Management; Former Professor (PMS)/ ROTC Officer School Commandant-University of Puerto Rico; Trustee Valencia College (Florida)

\*Executive; Manager; Consultant; Advisor/Facilitator: Plans, Operations, Training, Security, Business, Non-Profit, Government; Chair or Board Member of various Civic Organizations; Community Boards... \*US Army Retired (former Commander Infantry, Special Forces, Airborne...

\*\* Florida Governor Jeb Bush- Member Policy Transition Team; US President Policy Transition Advisory Committee; Congressional Veterans' Advisor; confirmed by the Florida Senate twice...

## ENCLOSURE

# EXAMPLE CLEAR NON- TERRITORIAL PLEBISCITE BALLOT

PART I:

A. <u>PURPOSE/GENERAL</u>: This is a sanctioned Congressional Plebiscite for US Citizens (Statutoryborn in Puerto Rico, and Others residing in the US Territory of Puerto Rico) mandated by the US Congress, IAW the US Constitution Territorial Clause that states: Congress shall have the power to dispose of and make all rules, and regulations pertinent to the Territory or Property belonging to the United States.

The US Congress will democratically measure the free will of the US Citizens residing in the US Territory of Puerto Rico and other statutory US Citizens (no matter where they reside)-- as to their desire to select an EQUAL Non-Territorial Status, per the US Constitution.

The US Congress offers EQUALITY through: Statehood or Independence (with or without Pact); naturalization of Statutory US Citizens in the States; a transition period of 5 years... per the below defined OPTIONS, IAW the Constitution of the United States.

#### B. <u>PROCESS</u>: TBD PART II: VOTE

# CHOOSE ONLY ONE OPTION—Write "X" next to your selection:

**STATEHOOD (Admittance to the Free "Union of States"—working for the common good.) MEANS:** The US Territory of Puerto Rico will enter the "Union of the United States" <u>as Equals</u>-- with a permanent US Citizenship, under the US Constitution (with—equal rights, responsibilities, earned benefits and Parity in all Federal Laws); State Boricua Identity (Customs/Traditions); State Sovereignty; State PR Constitution...

• Transition Period: 5 years.

# \_INDEPENDENCE- (Without PACT)

**MEANS:** The US Territory of Puerto Rico would become a Sovereign Entity with Puerto Rican Citizenship, under a Puerto Rican Constitution...; End of --US Citizenship.; end of Protection of the US Constitution...

• BUT, there will be an End of US Citizenship; end of Protection of the US Constitution; end of earned Federal Benefits and Federal Funding (about \$25 Billion dollars--includes loss of: Social Security,

MEDICARE, MEDCAID, Un-employment, Food Stamps, etc.; loss of Federal Funds for Healthcare, Defense, Security, Education, Transportation, Roads, etc.)

• Transition Period: 5 years.

### INDEPENDENCE- with PACT (Free Association; ELA Soberano or other name)

**MEANS:** The US Territory of Puerto Rico would become a Sovereign Entity with Puerto Rican Citizenship, under a Puerto Rican Constitution. BUT, but, with a PACT of Free Association with the United States; which terms need to be negotiated. Any of the Parts can terminate PACT...

- BUT, there will be an End of US Citizenship; end of Protection of the US Constitution; end of earned Federal Benefits and Federal Funding (about \$25 Billion dollars--includes loss of: Social Security, MEDICARE, MEDCAID, Un-employment, Food Stamps, etc.; loss of Federal Funds for Healthcare, Defense, Security, Education, Transportation, Roads, etc.)
- Transition Period: 5 years.

## \*<u>NOTES</u>:

- Statutory (by law) US Citizens (born in Puerto Rico) have a non-permanent US Citizenship that can be lost by the will of Congress or if Puerto Rico selects Independence.
- For Purposes of this Plebiscite, Congress will naturalize those statutory US Citizens residing in a State, as to the date of Independence ( if selected by the free will of the People).
- An Entity can't be Sovereign with the Constitution or Citizenship of another Entity.
- Those born in Puerto Rico have an un-permanent statutory US Citizenship, even if residing in a State... Thus, all statutory US Citizens have "Legal Standing" to participate in a Congressional PR Status Plebiscite, because the outcome can affect them (could lose their un-permanent US Citizenship).

#### <u>XXX</u> WE DEMAND: EQUALITY+JUSTICE+PROGRESS=STATEHOOD with DIGNITY!