



September 2, 2016

Honorable Members of the Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico:

Rep. Thomas C. MacArthur (New Jersey)

Rep. Sean Patrick Duffy (Wisconsin)

Sen. Marco Rubio (Florida)

Sen. Orrin Hatch (Utah)

Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez (Nueva York)

Rep. Pedro R. Pierluisi

Sen. Robert Menéndez (Nueva Jersey)

Sen. Clarence William Nelson (Florida)

Dear Congressmen and Congresswoman,

The Youth Development Institute is an independent, non-partisan, nonprofit organization whose vision and mission is to promote economic security among the island's families under poverty level. Conceived by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Puerto Rico (BG CPR), the YDI addresses the problems affecting children and youth from a systemic perspective. Since its inception in 2013, the YDI has worked to elevate the development of children and youth to a top priority in Puerto Rico. Strategies for achieving this goal include: collecting, centralizing, analyzing and publishing statistics and research on children and youth (ages 0 to 21), raising awareness about their living conditions through the dissemination of these statistics, mobilizing non-profit organizations involved in the development of children and youth, and developing public policy recommendations. YDI is unique in its design, it combines mobilizing and supporting systemic efforts on behalf of vulnerable children and families with leveraging its partnership with the BG CPR. The YDI is Annie E. Casey Foundation's (AECF) state partner for data collection, policy analysis and child advocacy.

BG CPR provides a laboratory for turning YDI policy into action. Their day to day experience amounts to 48 years catering direct services to more than 60,000 children, youth and their families in 13 distressed communities island wide. Since 2012, BG CPR has redirected its programs from a development and economic security perspective to promote employability and entrepreneurship among children and youth.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation develops solutions to strengthen families, build paths to economic opportunity and transform struggling communities into safer and healthier places to live, work and grow.

As you all know, PROMESA establishes a mandate to the Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in its Section 409 (g) (2):

“(g) Report.—Not later than December 31, 2016, the Task Force shall issue a report of its findings to the House and Senate regarding—

(2) recommended changes to Federal law and programs that, if adopted, would serve to ...reduce child poverty...”

In lieu of Congress' task at hand, we took the initiative to reach out to other institutions and experts for feedback and content. We also compiled policy recommendations from Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Governor's Early Childhood Multisectorial Council, Espacios Abiertos, Urban Institute, NGA Center for Best Practices, New York Federal Reserve Bank, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Fundación Angel Ramos, University of Puerto Rico's Educational



Research Center, Impactivo Consulting, Center for the New Economy and the Building Human Services Research Partnerships in Puerto Rico which we will include as Addenda in our hardcopy report. We hereby present the Task Force with the most relevant children youth and family indicators to be considered for designing new or reforming existing policy to promote economic security.

Additionally, this Pipeline is endorsed by the following institutions and people:

The Governor's Early Childhood Multisectorial Council

Fundación Banco Popular

Proyecto Nacer- Child Welfare League of America's Puerto Rico partner

Puerto Rico Food Bank

Fundacion Angel Ramos

Movimiento Alcance de Vida Independiente- MAVI

Consejo Renal de Puerto Rico

Taller Salud

P.E.C.E.S.

Agenda Ciudadana

Proyecto ESCAPE

Fundacion Puertorriqueña Síndrome Down

Movimiento Una Sola Voz

Centros Sor Isolina Ferré

Bill's Kitchen

Instituto Psicopedagógico de Puerto Rico

Espacios Abiertos

Dra. Annette Lopez de Mendez

Dra. Wanda Pacheco

Dra. Annie Alonso Amador

Representative Luisa Gándara

With this input and support from such a diverse network of workers for childhood development, we present the Task Force a *Two Generation Workforce Development Pipeline for Puerto Rico*. As part of the Annie E. Casey network, the YDI can bring further data and policy resources to the Congressional Task Force. All the recommendations we submitted must be tempered to the Puerto Rican context for which we can bring these non profit, academic, government and private sector partners to the table to develop a work plan together with the Task Force and the Executive Branch.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eduardo Carrera Morales".

Eduardo Carrera Morales

President

Boys and Girls Clubs of Puerto Rico