



HR0397

LRB104 13737 MST 26459 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

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

7 WHEREAS, Nearly a decade has passed since the Financial  
8 Oversight and Management Board's inception, and during this  
9 time, many Puerto Ricans have expressed deep concern over the  
10 lack of local self-governance and the democratic process  
11 resulting from its broad powers; and

12 WHEREAS, Puerto Rico has made progress in restructuring  
13 its public debt, implementing fiscal reforms, and returning to  
14 capital markets, yet the indefinite continuation of the  
15 Financial Oversight and Management Board's presence threatens  
16 to hinder the island's long-term economic recovery,  
17 self-determination, and democratic accountability; and

18 WHEREAS, Residents of Puerto Rico are U.S. citizens who  
19 deserve the same rights to self-governance and democratic  
20 representation as those living in any other nation; and

21 WHEREAS, The indefinite operation of the Financial

1 Oversight and Management Board continues to exacerbate public  
2 distrust, while economic austerity measures have  
3 disproportionately affected access to healthcare, education,  
4 and public services; and

5 WHEREAS, As a result of prolonged austerity policies, the  
6 University of Puerto Rico has seen its public funding slashed  
7 by more than half, undermining access to higher education and  
8 weakening one of the island's key institutions for economic  
9 and social mobility; and

10 WHEREAS, More than 600,000 Puerto Ricans have migrated  
11 from the island since the creation of the Financial Oversight  
12 and Management Board, seeking opportunity and stability in the  
13 continental United States in the face of rising costs, reduced  
14 services, and a lack of economic opportunity; and

15 WHEREAS, Deep cuts to the municipal equalization fund  
16 (fondo de equiparación) have jeopardized the ability of towns  
17 and cities across Puerto Rico to provide basic services and  
18 maintain local infrastructure; and

19 WHEREAS, While Puerto Rico has received significant  
20 federal disaster and recovery funds, the disbursement process  
21 has often been slow, inadequate, and conditioned on board  
22 approval, delaying the island's recovery from hurricanes,

1 earthquakes, and the COVID-19 pandemic; and

2 WHEREAS, The Financial Oversight and Management Board's  
3 prolonged existence undermines the possibility of achieving  
4 true fiscal self-sufficiency and restoring confidence in  
5 Puerto Rico's democratic institutions; and

6 WHEREAS, The communities of Illinois include a significant  
7 Puerto Rican population who maintain deep social, cultural,  
8 and economic ties to the island and are directly impacted by  
9 decisions made by the Financial Oversight and Management  
10 Board; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
12 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
13 we urge the United States Congress to take immediate action to  
14 establish a definitive end date for the operation of the  
15 Puerto Rico Financial Oversight and Management Board, ensure a  
16 transition toward full fiscal autonomy and local democratic  
17 governance in Puerto Rico, and promote economic self  
18 actualization and just recovery efforts that are  
19 community-driven and accountable to Puerto Ricans on the  
20 island; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
22 delivered to the President of the United States, the U.S.

1 Senate Majority Leader, the U.S. Senate Minority Leader, the  
2 U.S. Speaker of the House, the U.S. House of Representatives  
3 Minority Leader, and all members of the Illinois Congressional  
4 Delegation.