

September 28, 2017

Mr. William B. "Brock" Long
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Long:

The leadership of the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health is increasingly concerned about the situation in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The damage inflicted by Hurricane Maria on both Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands is severe and we urge you and your colleagues to expend all available resources to restore essential services to the affected populations. Any delay in meeting the needs of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Island's citizens is unacceptable.

We also hope that FEMA and the Administration will focus resources on expeditiously meeting the needs of the University of Puerto Rico so that it can again provide essential services to the island's citizens. Of particular concern is the ability of the University of Puerto Rico Graduate School of Public Health to function effectively. In addition to providing essential educational services to graduate students who will become future public health leaders, the school provides critical services to the Commonwealth and its citizens. It serves a crucial role in addressing the island's community health needs and in guarding against (and, if necessary, addressing) pandemic threats. In the island's current situation, the School's services are essential.

ASPPH is the voice of accredited academic public health, representing schools and programs accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). Our members are CEPH-accredited schools and programs of public health as well as schools and programs in applicant status for CEPH-accreditation. Our mission is to transform public health by strengthening and promoting the education, research, service, and practice activities in academic public health.

Our member schools and programs have already reached out to the leadership of the University of Puerto Rico Graduate School of Public Health to offer assistance to its faculty and students. However, we do not have the resources or ability to ensure that the School's

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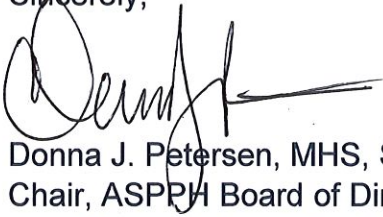
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infrastructure is sufficiently restored to allow it to function. We hope you and your colleagues will make meeting the School's needs a priority.

Sincerely,



Donna J. Petersen, MHS, ScD, CPH
Chair, ASPPH Board of Directors
and Dean, Univ. of So. Florida College
of Public Health

Laura Magana, Ph.D.
ASPPH President and CEO

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