



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Gustavo Rivera

State Senator Gustavo Rivera on Trump's Tweets Threatening to Pull Back Federal Help from Puerto Rico

GUSTAVO RIVERA | October 12, 2017

| ISSUE: **PUERTO RICO, PUERTO RICO RELIEF EFFORTS, TRUMP**

"I am utterly disgusted and completely enraged by Trump's tweets threatening to pull back federal relief workers from Puerto Rico only three weeks after Hurricane Maria devastated the island. It is sickening that the person in the most powerful position in our government shows such a lack of compassion and moral compass towards American citizens, as they face nothing less than a full-fledged humanitarian crisis.

Three weeks after Maria wrecked the island, Puerto Rico remains without power. Further, I have personally heard accounts from people working on the ground that residents are still struggling to find clean water and secure essential goods, hospitals are running short on medicine, and the majority of schools are still closed.

While the outpouring support from our fellow citizens has been nothing short of extraordinary and profoundly generous, the response from the federal government has been slow, inept, irresponsible and cruel. It is imperative that Governor Roselló and Congress work together in order to put forth a comprehensive disaster aid package that will rebuild Puerto Rico with the best interests of Puerto Ricans in mind.

Trump fails to understand that this is not a game. The lives of 3.4 million American citizens are at stake. My brothers and sisters in Puerto Rico cannot be abandoned by their own government; they cannot be left to die. To quote the brave Mayor of San Juan, Carmen Yulin Cruz: "Mr. President, fulfill your moral imperative towards the people of Puerto Rico."

Make no mistake: We will hold this administration accountable and will continue to push them to do the right thing.

Finally, I will also ask you to sign my moveon.org petition so that Congress hears from as many Americans as possible that Puerto Rico needs immediate help."