

National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)
International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)
United States Conference of Mayors (USCM)
Fraternal Order of Police (FOP)
National Association of Counties (NACo)
National Education Association (NEA)
National League of Cities (NLC)
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International Public Management Association for Human Resources (IPMA-HR)
National Conference of State Social Security Administrators (NCSSSA)
National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS)
National Council on Teacher Retirement (NCTR)
National Association of State Retirement Administrators (NASRA)

December 11, 2015

VIA FACSIMILE: (202) 224-2499

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majoriy Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the national organizations listed above, representing state and local governments, elected officials, employees and retirement systems, we are writing to express our strong opposition to public pension requirements contained in the Puerto Rico Assistance Act of 2015 (S. 2381). These provisions are not limited to the territory of Puerto Rico, but impose a federal mandate on all state and local governments in areas that are the fiscal responsibility of sovereign States and localities, and are conflicting, administratively burdensome and costly.

The provisions are not germane to the underlying legislation, nor do they protect benefits, save costs or improve retirement system funding. They also have neither been introduced this Congress as stand-alone bills nor received consideration under regular order, including in the many hearings pertaining to Puerto Rico.

State and local government retirement systems are established and regulated by state laws and, in many cases, further subject to local governing policies and ordinances. State and local governments have and are taking steps to strengthen their pension reserves and operate under a long-term time horizon. Since 2009, every state has made changes to pension benefit levels, contribution rate structures, or both. Many local governments have made similar modifications to their plans. A compendium of information that corrects many misperceptions regarding the financial condition of these governments and their retirement plans can be found here: [State and Local Fiscal Facts: 2015](#).

Federal interference into the fiscal affairs of state and local governments is neither requested nor warranted. Therefore, we strongly urge the exclusion of provisions impacting state and local government retirement systems from legislation relating to Puerto Rico assistance or any other legislation under consideration.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact any of our organizations' legislative staff listed below. We would be more than happy to meet with your office to discuss this important matter further.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hurley, NCSL, (202) 624-7753
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December 11, 2015

VIA FACSIMILE: (202) 224-7362

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Minority Leader Reid:

On behalf of the national organizations listed above, representing state and local governments, elected officials, employees and retirement systems, we are writing to express our strong opposition to public pension requirements contained in the Puerto Rico Assistance Act of 2015 (S. 2381). These provisions are not limited to the territory of Puerto Rico, but impose a federal mandate on all state and local governments in areas that are the fiscal responsibility of sovereign States and localities, and are conflicting, administratively burdensome and costly.

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December 11, 2015

VIA FACSIMILE: (202) 225-5117

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

On behalf of the national organizations listed above, representing state and local governments, elected officials, employees and retirement systems, we are writing to express our strong opposition to public pension requirements contained in the Puerto Rico Assistance Act of 2015 (S. 2381). These provisions are not limited to the territory of Puerto Rico, but impose a federal mandate on all state and local governments in areas that are the fiscal responsibility of sovereign States and localities, and are conflicting, administratively burdensome and costly.

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December 11, 2015

VIA FACSIMILE: (202) 225-4188

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi,
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Minority Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the national organizations listed above, representing state and local governments, elected officials, employees and retirement systems, we are writing to express our strong opposition to public pension requirements contained in the Puerto Rico Assistance Act of 2015 (S. 2381). These provisions are not limited to the territory of Puerto Rico, but impose a federal mandate on all state and local governments in areas that are the fiscal responsibility of sovereign States and localities, and are conflicting, administratively burdensome and costly.

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December 11, 2015

VIA FACSIMILE: (202) 228-0554

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman, Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hatch:

On behalf of the national organizations listed above, representing state and local governments, elected officials, employees and retirement systems, we are writing to express our strong opposition to public pension requirements contained in the Puerto Rico Assistance Act of 2015 (S. 2381). These provisions are not limited to the territory of Puerto Rico, but impose a federal mandate on all state and local governments in areas that are the fiscal responsibility of sovereign States and localities, and are conflicting, administratively burdensome and costly.

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December 11, 2015

VIA FACSIMILE: (202) 228-0554

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member, Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Wyden:

On behalf of the national organizations listed above, representing state and local governments, elected officials, employees and retirement systems, we are writing to express our strong opposition to public pension requirements contained in the Puerto Rico Assistance Act of 2015 (S. 2381). These provisions are not limited to the territory of Puerto Rico, but impose a federal mandate on all state and local governments in areas that are the fiscal responsibility of sovereign States and localities, and are conflicting, administratively burdensome and costly.

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CC: Kara Getz

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December 11, 2015

VIA FACSIMILE: 202) 224-9516

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley:

On behalf of the national organizations listed above, representing state and local governments, elected officials, employees and retirement systems, we are writing to express our strong opposition to public pension requirements contained in the Puerto Rico Assistance Act of 2015 (S. 2381). These provisions are not limited to the territory of Puerto Rico, but impose a federal mandate on all state and local governments in areas that are the fiscal responsibility of sovereign States and localities, and are conflicting, administratively burdensome and costly.

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December 11, 2015

VIA FACSIMILE: (202) 224-9516

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Leahy:

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December 11, 2015

VIA FACSIMILE: (202) 224-6163

The Honorable Lisa Murkoswki
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chiarman Murkowski:

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National Council on Teacher Retirement (NCTR)
National Association of State Retirement Administrators (NASRA)

December 11, 2015

VIA FACSIMILE: (202) 224-6163

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Cantwell:

On behalf of the national organizations listed above, representing state and local governments, elected officials, employees and retirement systems, we are writing to express our strong opposition to public pension requirements contained in the Puerto Rico Assistance Act of 2015 (S. 2381). These provisions are not limited to the territory of Puerto Rico, but impose a federal mandate on all state and local governments in areas that are the fiscal responsibility of sovereign States and localities, and are conflicting, administratively burdensome and costly.

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National Association of State Retirement Administrators (NASRA)

December 11, 2015

VIA FACSIMILE: (202) 228-3027

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

On behalf of the national organizations listed above, representing state and local governments, elected officials, employees and retirement systems, we are writing to express our strong opposition to public pension requirements contained in the Puerto Rico Assistance Act of 2015 (S. 2381). These provisions are not limited to the territory of Puerto Rico, but impose a federal mandate on all state and local governments in areas that are the fiscal responsibility of sovereign States and localities, and are conflicting, administratively burdensome and costly.

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December 11, 2015

VIA FACSIMILE: (202) 224-9673

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

On behalf of the national organizations listed above, representing state and local governments, elected officials, employees and retirement systems, we are writing to express our strong opposition to public pension requirements contained in the Puerto Rico Assistance Act of 2015 (S. 2381). These provisions are not limited to the territory of Puerto Rico, but impose a federal mandate on all state and local governments in areas that are the fiscal responsibility of sovereign States and localities, and are conflicting, administratively burdensome and costly.

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December 11, 2015

VIA FACSIMILE: (202) 228-5044

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member, Committee on Health Education Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Murray:

On behalf of the national organizations listed above, representing state and local governments, elected officials, employees and retirement systems, we are writing to express our strong opposition to public pension requirements contained in the Puerto Rico Assistance Act of 2015 (S. 2381). These provisions are not limited to the territory of Puerto Rico, but impose a federal mandate on all state and local governments in areas that are the fiscal responsibility of sovereign States and localities, and are conflicting, administratively burdensome and costly.

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December 11, 2015

VIA FACSIMILE: (202) 228-2072

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warren:

On behalf of the national organizations listed above, representing state and local governments, elected officials, employees and retirement systems, we are writing to express our strong opposition to public pension requirements contained in the Puerto Rico Assistance Act of 2015 (S. 2381). These provisions are not limited to the territory of Puerto Rico, but impose a federal mandate on all state and local governments in areas that are the fiscal responsibility of sovereign States and localities, and are conflicting, administratively burdensome and costly.

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