



*SENATE OF PUERTO RICO*

*Roberto A. Arango*

*Majority Leader*

March 8, 2010

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Congress:

Puerto Rico has enjoy United States citizenship since March, 1917 when President Woodrow Wilson enacted the Jones-Shafroth Act (48 U.S.C. § 731 (1987) Further, under the presidency of Harry S. Truman on June 27, 1952 all persons born in Puerto Rico since 1941 where declared citizens at birth (8 U.S.C. Sec 1402).

In addition, an April 2000 report by the Congressional Research Service, asserts that citizens born in Puerto Rico are legally defined as natural born citizens and are therefore eligible to be elected President, provided they meet qualifications of age and 14 years residence within the Continental United States.

Puerto Rico has been under the influence of the United States since July 25, 1898 when the first U.S. Soldiers enter the Island shores. Puerto Rico's development under the tenure of Unites States is noticeable, being unquestionably the Caribbean only developed country.

Puerto Rico although not a State of the Union, has developed under the same administrative and governmental parameters of any other State. With an Executive, Legislative and Judicial branch that not only mimic that of any other estate, but that is intricately inserted in the administrative and government establishment of the United States.

Puerto Rico has both English and Spanish as official languages; is included in the U.S. Postal Service; uses U.S currency; U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Services; has local presence of all federal agencies in the Island such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Central Intelligence Agency, Homeland Security and Social Security Administration among others . In terms of the judiciary,

Puerto Rico has the Bankruptcy Court for the District of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Federal Court District of Puerto Rico and direct access to the U.S. third district appellate court and U.S. Supreme Court. In terms of military, Puerto Rico does not have armed forces, and Puerto Ricans have been serving in the U.S. Armed forces for the past century. In fact more than 400,000 Puerto Ricans have been drafted and serve in WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam and more recently Iraq.

Local administrative departments are subject to or under the supervision of federal departments which regulations are met, in example; the US Department of Transportation, the Highway Authority and FTA oversee the Puerto Rico Department of Transportation and Public Works, the Puerto Rico Metropolitan Bus Authority and the Puerto Rico Maritime Transportation Authority and Ports Authority. As well the Federal Aviation Administration oversees the administration of the International Airports of which Luis Munoz Marin International Airport.

As a further example of the above, President George H. W. Bush issued a 30 November 1992 memorandum to heads of executive departments and agencies establishing the current administrative relationship between the federal government and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. This memorandum directs all federal departments, agencies, and officials to treat Puerto Rico administratively as if it were a state.

In terms of commerce, we are ruled by the interstate commerce clauses, and have enjoy for decades the expansion of all major brands and products such as: GAP, BANANA REPUBLIC, SEPHORA, BORDERS, MACYS, POTTERY BARN, JC PENNEY, SEARS, COSTCO, SAMS, WALMART, KMART, WALGREENS, CVS, BURGER KING, WENDYS, MC DONALDS, HILTON, TRUMP, ST. REGIS, MANDALAY, RITZ CARLTON, PFIZER, GLAXO SMITHKLINE, BRISTOL MYER SQUIBB, NOVARTIS, SIEMENS, VIOLA, OLIVE GARDEN, CHILIS, ROMANOS MACARONI & GRILL, MICROSOFT, APPLE, BEST BUY, OFFICE MAX and OFFICE DEPOT just to mention a few.

With a solid banking system insured and administer by the FDIC and a stock exchange and financials being oversee by the SEC Puerto Rico have been the recipient of US investments for decades.

With an educational system respondent to the U.S. Department of Education and following the same curriculum as that of any other state, Puerto Rico residents actively study on the continental universities as well as many U.S. mainland residents come to study in our universities for specialize studies such as Biology in our diversified eco system which includes the only Rain Forest in the U.S. parks reserve, to study the universe from still today the Largest Radiotelescope in the World or to do archeology in some of the ancient sites in America.

Even our heritage is preserved by the United State government Park Services.

In terms of infrastructure, it comes down the United States Corp of Engineers, the Federal Communications Commission and the so many other agencies that

control and issue permits over the Island. We enjoy over thousands of kilometers of highways, first class convention centers, a metro system and museums that are second to none.

All, of the above are facts that are indicative and conclusive that the only logical step for which Puerto Rico has been preparing over the past 112 years is to become a permanent state of the union.

Although the latest report from the Presidents Task Force for Puerto Rico concluded that Puerto Rico is a territory of the United States and that Congress could do as it see fit including the elimination of U.S citizenship for Puerto Rico residents, the abovementioned facts speak volumes. Even if that is a possibility the legal repercussions has never been truly considered, Puerto Ricans are citizens by birth and any such action would conclude in one of several scenarios non of which is desirable for the United States. In the one hand it would be short of unconstitutional, but it would spark a massive immigration to the continental U.S.; result in a continuous number of citizens being born to U.S. citizens abroad which would in terms continue to make Puerto Ricans U.S citizens or a state of total chaos fiercely disapproved by the international community.

Puerto Rico has a noble past and a bright future, but it is unfair, unjust and frankly just unreasonable that U.S. citizen residents in Puerto Rico can vote in a primary to select a Presidential Candidate and that they cannot vote to elect that same candidate to office. It is a shame that we have entered the XXI century with a Congress that will confirm one of our own to the highest position of the nations judiciary but allows that same Congress to hold unconditional powers over a territory which has no voting representation in that Congress after serving for over 100 years in its military armed force.

They say that leaders are man and women of their time, I invite you to make history, to give all U.S. citizen residents of Puerto Rico the first honest opportunity to decide between non-territorial options and I assure you that the result will undoubtedly yield a richer and stronger America, Land of the Free, Home of the Brave and Democracy Model of the World.

Sincerely,



Roberto A. Arango