



Dannel P. Malloy

GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

January 18, 2018

The Honorable William “Brock” Long, Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Long:

I write today to request immediate reversal of the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) sudden decision to rescind recently-approved Transitional Shelter Assistance (TSA) benefits for 36 Puerto Rican families who have been residing in Connecticut since being displaced from their homes by Hurricane Maria.

On January 11, 2018, the State of Connecticut formally requested a two week extension of the TSA hotel program for households of displaced persons from Puerto Rico deemed ineligible by FEMA for further assistance after January 13. On January 15, 2018, the State of Connecticut was informed by FEMA that its request to extend TSA eligibility for the 36 households had been granted through February 14. Today, just three days later, the state received notice from FEMA that notification of the extension had been sent in error and the families were once again ineligible for TSA. We were notified of this “error” at noon today, and subsequently learned that as of 2:00 pm – just 2 hours later – families had begun receiving orders to leave their hotels immediately.

This about-face is outrageous and unacceptable, and because of your agency’s abysmal management of this situation, 36 families – all of who are American citizens – are now, with no warning, being told by FEMA that they have no place to live.

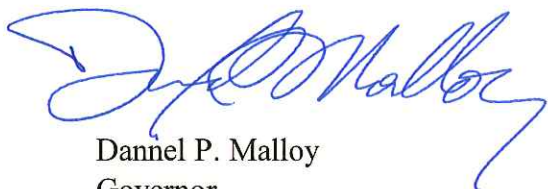
All things considered, it is hard to come to any conclusion other than that the federal government sees the United States citizens who inhabit Puerto Rico as second-class.

At the very least, I urge you to correct this egregious error and immediately grant a TSA extension, through February 14, to these 36 families. The State of Connecticut has welcomed our fellow citizens, including at least 1,972 students into Connecticut schools and has gone above and beyond to provide an array of state services and disaster case management. The federal

government has an obligation to these citizens as well. If FEMA's decision stands and you displace these 36 families from their temporary homes, it will be nothing short of tragic.

Put simply, this needs to be fixed immediately.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dannel P. Malloy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "M".

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor