

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 11, 2018

The Honorable William B. Long  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Long:

We write to respectfully request your agency immediately allow for an automatic extension of individual Transitional Shelter Assistance (TSA) vouchers for the evacuees of Hurricane Maria currently residing in Florida. Recently, FEMA granted a 66-day extension to continue assistance to evacuees from January 14 through March 20. However, thousands of evacuees are being denied the extension and being forced out of hotels because they're not automatically deemed eligible.

If an evacuee is currently residing in a TSA paid-for hotel room, it is not because they don't want to return home, it is because their home is not habitable. These evacuees are not staying in transitional housing because it is enjoyable or fun. They're doing it because they are displaced and unable to return home. Most of the evacuees that are utilizing TSA vouchers are staying in these hotels specifically because they don't know anyone in Florida and have no one to turn to for help. The evacuees are alone and there is a real fear in their eyes. They don't know where they, their children, or their elderly parents will be able to sleep if their housing vouchers are cut off on Saturday.

Puerto Rican evacuees are in Florida and need housing. Florida needs assistance to support the housing needs of the Puerto Rican evacuees. Therefore, we respectfully request that you approve an automatic extension of individual TSA vouchers for the evacuees of Hurricane Maria. We thank you for continued attention to this ongoing matter.

Sincerely,

  
DARREN SOTO  
Member of Congress

  
STEPHANIE MURPHY  
Member of Congress