



Hon. Ángel R. Peña Ramírez  
REPRESENTANTE

August 26, 2014

Honorable Arne Duncan  
Secretary of Education  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Mr. Duncan:

As a member of the Puerto Rico House of Representatives one of my priorities is to safeguard the public education system in order to assure that all of the students in the system receive the best educational experience they can.

Unfortunately, this goal, which I know you also share, is not been met in the United States territory of Puerto Rico. In fact, the opposite is happening. The Puerto Rico Department of Education is in the middle of a highly stressful situation which as of today has threatened the wellbeing of all of its components, particularly, our students participants of the Special Education Program.

The problems are many and growing every day. In fact, as of today, nearly 5,000 students are still without transportation from their homes to their school. Furthermore, as we communicate, the lack proper timely recruitment of teachers and other related personnel, assigned to special education students, have compromised achieving basic educative and transportation services for our students, among other related services.

It is also alarming to inform that the visual impaired and blind students registered in the Special Education Program have not received their specially designed Braille books because, as reported in the state media, the Puerto Rico Department of Education "forgot" to purchase them.

In recognition of all the efforts we are addressing to this matter in a state level we would like to add your wisdom and authority to solve this difficult situation in the Puerto Rico's Department of Education.

We urge your intervention in the pursue in achieving our sacred public interest of guaranteeing our students, especially those registered in the Special Education Program the basic services mandated in our state and federal constitution.

I anticipate my gratitude for your attention to this urgent matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ángel R. Peña Ramírez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "R".

Mr. Ángel R. Peña Ramírez  
State Representative District 33