



# State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT A. SLATER *District 10*

March 14, 2010

Luis M. Balzac  
Director, New York Regional Office  
Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration  
135 West 50th Street  
New York, NY 10020

Dear Director Balzac:

After nearly three weeks of fact-finding meetings with constituents and contacting fellow legislators and potential co-sponsors to consider support for a resolution addressing the Puerto Rican birth certificate issue, I'd like to officially confirm the rumors that a news conference is being planned to announce my intention to introduce a resolution in the Rhode Island House of Representatives. This resolution would extend the acceptance of all Puerto Rican Birth Certificates, including those issued prior to July 1, 2010 until October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 throughout Rhode Island.

It has become clear to several of us that this kind of action at the state level is not only warranted, but is the best course of action to support our Rhode Island residents born in the United States Territory of Puerto Rico.

Our reasons for this conclusion are threefold. First, we want to reassure our Puerto Rican born residents that Rhode Islanders realizes that this situation was not caused by any fault of theirs. It is prudent key provision of Puerto Rico's overall strategy to tighten security for the issuance and usage of birth certificates in order to combat fraud and protect the identity and credit of all people born in Puerto Rico. We applaud the sacrifice of time and patience required of our residents of Puerto Rico birth, and the actions of our brothers and sisters in the Puerto Rico legislature.

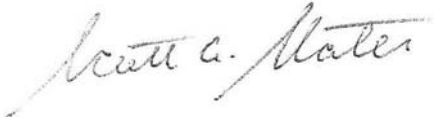
Second, our concern is for Rhode Islanders and administrators here. The security strategy the Puerto Rico Legislature ordered is that birth certificates be revoked on July 1<sup>st</sup> and then reissue them starting that same day. While its true and we agree that there is no urgent need for most Puerto Ricans to rush out and get a new birth certificate on July 1<sup>st</sup>, we still foresee a delay our residents will experience due to the large number of people who could seem certificates immediately.

Third, we want to set a very visible guide for any discretionary decision-making of our

State and Municipal Officials and Administrators. This should also avoid any unfair, early refusal of birth certificates currently occurring in Ohio and California due to uncoordinated state and municipal departmental discretion.

I am proud to stand tall on my convictions in this matter, and sincerely hope that other state legislative bodies will introduce similar action. Feel free to use this letter in any manner you see prudent.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott A. Slater". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Scott A. Slater  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
District 10

SAS/jla