



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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PATRICK H. WEST  
CITY MANAGER

February 22, 2016

The Honorable Carol Liu  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5097  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Opposition to Senate Bill 876 (Liu) – Homelessness**

Dear Senator Liu:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in strong opposition to Senate Bill 876 (Liu). As one of the first cities in America to bring veterans homelessness near “functional zero”, Long Beach has a strong history of working with all members of our homeless population to transition to housing. We recognize that like our City, our homeless population is diverse and each individual’s needs are unique. The City opposes SB 876 on the basis of local control, as it threatens to undo much of the progress that has made in recent years to transition individuals experiencing homelessness into permanent housing.

The City of Long Beach provides a range of services at our Multi-Service Center, which is a facility that is dedicated to assisting homeless individuals transition into permanent housing. The City’s strategic plan to reduce homelessness prioritizes four goals. We strive to: (1) Reduce the number of people who become homeless; (2) Increase the number of homeless individuals placed into permanent housing; (3) Decrease the length of homeless episodes; and (4) Provide community-based services that prevent homelessness before it happens and diminish opportunities for homelessness to recur. These services have proven to work.

Instead of assisting individuals with a transition into permanent housing and employment, SB 876 runs counter to the City’s local strategy for reducing homelessness. The Long Beach City Council has adopted a plan that works, and the City believes it is the best plan for improving the quality of life for all Long Beach residents, homeless or not.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach opposes SB 876.

Sincerely,

Patrick H. West  
CITY MANAGER

cc: The Honorable Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33<sup>rd</sup> District  
The Honorable Janet Nguyen, State Senate, 34<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Isadore Hall, III, State Senate, 35<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, State Assembly, 63<sup>rd</sup> District  
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70<sup>th</sup> District