



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

August 21, 2015

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
California State Senate, Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for AB 870 (Cooley) – State Funding for Rapid Rehousing Programs

Dear Chairman Lara:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I am pleased to support AB 870 (Cooley). This bill would create a two-year enhancement program in State Department of Housing and Community Development to award grants to counties or providers that have existing rapid rehousing programs that have a demonstrated effectiveness in delivering rapid rehousing programs for individuals and veterans.

While fewer Long Beach residents are without permanent housing now compared to two years ago, there is still much work to be done so that homelessness in California's 7th largest city continues to decrease. Long Beach's most recent homeless count was completed in January 2015 and reveals that there are still 2,345 people in the City experiencing homelessness. While this is still a staggering number, it represents an 18 percent decrease compared to the number of people who experienced homelessness in 2013. We were even more pleased to learn that the number of homeless children in Long Beach decreased by 24 percent, when data from 2013 was compared to that in 2015.

This progress is attributable in large part to improvements that have been made to better match individuals to resources they need most, and moving the individuals to permanent housing faster. In Long Beach, we know that of the homeless individuals and families served, 65 percent of those who age 18 and older maintained or increased their total income at program exit, and 82 percent retain permanent housing for at least 3 months. Long Beach is confident that the grant funds AB 870 proposes to distribute will be able to further reduce the population of Californians experiencing homelessness.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach strongly supports AB 870.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia".

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

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

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