



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

September 12, 2016

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Senate Bill 1300 (Hernandez) – Medi-Cal: Emergency Medical Transport Providers: Quality Assurance Fee

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write to urge your signature on Senate Bill 1300 (Hernandez). This bill would increase Medi-Cal emergency medical transportation rates in order to maintain the high level of care that is expected of emergency medical transport programs statewide. Long Beach supports efforts to ensure quality emergency medical care for all Californians.

Inadequate Medi-Cal reimbursement for ambulance transport is a long-standing issue and places a strain on the state's emergency medical services (EMS) system. By increasing Medi-Cal emergency medical transportation rates through levying a Quality Assurance Fee (QAF) on three emergency medical transportation reimbursement codes, SB 1300 would enable medical transport providers, including the City of Long Beach, to draw down additional federal Medicaid without imposing a cost to the state General Fund.

While the costs to provide essential ambulance services have significantly increased during the past decade, Medi-Cal reimbursement has not kept pace with these increased costs and has in fact declined to less than the amounts paid in 1999. With the passage of SB 1300, emergency ambulance service providers will receive much needed financial relief, which will help to ensure that all California residents and visitors continue to receive the highest quality emergency medical care.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports SB 1300 and urges your signature on this bill.

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

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