



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA CITY OF LONG BEACH

September 25, 2017

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

RE: AB 210 (Santiago) – Support Relating to Homeless Multidisciplinary Personnel Teams

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of Assembly Bill 210 (Santiago). This bill seeks to address California's homelessness crisis, in part, by establishing Homeless Multidisciplinary Personnel Teams. Challenges associated with homelessness are complex. While there is a need to protect patient confidentiality, there are also benefits that can be gained when public service entities align to share information within confined parameters. Long Beach has found that the most effective means by which local governments can assist individuals with a transition out of homelessness and into transitional and permanent housing is to develop a comprehensive plan that addresses the multiple factors that contribute to an individual's state of homelessness.

AB 210 proposes to eliminate barriers to information sharing, as it relates to providing homelessness services. While cities and counties may currently establish multidisciplinary teams, the ability for information cross-sharing is limited because of existing healthcare privacy laws. This bill allows counties to formally establish protocols for sharing confidential information, which will enable homeless service providers to collaborate on treatment strategies that address the whole person, not simply individual factors associated with that person.

Long Beach provides a range of homeless supportive services at our Multi-Service Center with the goal of transitioning individuals experiencing homelessness into permanent housing. Currently, there is no statutory authority for county departments and homeless service providers to share data on homeless youth, families, or single adults. The ability to share information would help to facilitate the identification, assessment, and linkage of homeless youth, families and individuals to the most appropriate housing and supportive services. It also would enable county departments and agencies to know what services homeless persons are currently receiving or have received in the past.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach requests your signature on AB 210 (Santiago).

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc:

The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Janet Nguyen, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District