



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA CITY OF LONG BEACH

June 23, 2017

The Honorable Scott D. Wiener, Chairman
California State Senate Human Services Committee
State Capitol, Room 521
Sacramento, California 95814

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

Dear Chairman Weiner:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of Assembly Bill 210 (Santiago). Long Beach previously supported this bill in the State Assembly. AB 210 seeks to address California's homelessness crisis, in part, by establishing Homeless Multidisciplinary Personnel Teams. The challenges associated with homelessness are complex. While there is a need to protect patient confidentiality, there are also benefits to be gained when public service entities align to share information within confined parameters.

AB 210 proposes to make several changes to existing law that would eliminate some barriers 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. By allowing counties to formally establish protocols for sharing confidential information, AB 210 enables homeless service providers to collaborate on treatment strategies that address the whole person, not simply individual factors associated with that person.

The City of Long Beach, through our local Continuum of Care, 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 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 supports AB 210.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia", written over a white background.

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Miguel Santiago, 53rd District
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
California State Senate Human Services Committee