



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA CITY OF LONG BEACH

April 20, 2017

The Honorable David Chiu, Chair
California State Assembly, Committee on Housing and Community Development
1020 N Street, Room 162
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 1406 (Gloria) – Support Relating to Homeless Youth Advocacy

Dear Chairman Chiu:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of Assembly Bill 1406 (Gloria). This bill seeks to address California's homelessness crisis as it relates to California's youth by establishing the Homeless Youth Advocacy and Housing Program. AB 1406 will reduce youth homelessness by supporting ten local Continuums of Care (CoC) across California with grant funding for youth services. Long Beach is the largest CoC administered by a city, and the only federally recognized Unified Funding Agency (UFA) in the County of Los Angeles. The Long Beach CoC has a strong history of successfully supporting individuals in the transition from homelessness to housing. It is uniquely positioned to assist youth who may be at risk for homelessness achieve self-sufficiency.

In December 2016, the United States Conference of Mayors published a report evaluating 31 cities nationally. The report shows that Long Beach is outperforming all other large urban cities in reducing homelessness. Because of the City's demonstrated achievements, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development recognizes Long Beach as a UFA, which enables the City to have greater flexibility in funding for homeless services. The addition of state funding through AB 1406, specifically for youth experiencing homelessness, will help Long Beach leverage existing funding for this purpose.

The Long Beach CoC actively partners with 11 local organizations to provide rapid rehousing, transitional housing, permanent housing, and supportive services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Through the City's partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Long Beach is able to provide a variety of supportive programs including the Family Preservation Program for children and youth who are at risk of out of home placement. In 2016, the Center for Families and Youth worked with 398 families, 95 percent of which remained together at case closure. The City believes AB 1406 will help provide additional resources to assist youth in achieving self-sufficiency through housing and supportive services.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach strongly supports AB 1406 (Gloria).

Sincerely,

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

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Todd Gloria, State Assembly, 78th 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