



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA CITY OF LONG BEACH

June 20, 2018

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher
California State Assembly
1020 N. Street, Room 2114
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 2090 (Gonzalez Fletcher) – Support for Guardianships: Special Immigrant Juvenile Status

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez Fletcher:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of AB 2090 (Gonzalez Fletcher). On March 13, 2018, the Long Beach City Council voted to approve a resolution titled the Long Beach Values Act, which affirmed the City's commitment to laws adopted in SB 54 (De Leon) and to partner with local organizations to consider expanding local policy that prevents future deportations of local residents. This bill includes "parent" in the definition of "relative" for purposes of defining who may petition a court for guardianship of a person who is a ward of the court past the age of 18 but under 21. AB 2090 allows a non-abusive parent to petition for guardianship of their adult child (the ward) if the ward gives their consent and is unmarried. This petition for guardianship beyond the age of 18 would be to allow a ward to complete their application process with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services for classification of Special Immigrant Juvenile Status so that the adult child may apply for lawful permanent residency.

Through previous legislation, California has demonstrated a commitment to individuals who have a claim for political asylum. Additionally, state law reflects a commitment to individuals who have had longstanding ties to the United States or who are eligible for relief under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. AB 2090 builds upon existing state law by clarifying a protection for young adults who have found themselves in the juvenile dependency court system through allegations of abuse or neglect against one of their parents. These individuals often face a threat of extreme danger of physical harm should they be returned to their home country. By allowing a qualified parent to petition for guardianship, AB 2090 protects these young adults.

The City of Long Beach is invested in supporting services to youth in foster care and supporting their transition to productive adulthood. The City also values the economic and cultural diversity contributions that families with immigrant household members bring to California. According to the American Immigration Council, immigrant families contribute \$5.2 billion in state income taxes and \$4.2 billion in sales taxes each year. AB 2090 allows foster youth transitioning into adulthood to seek a better life in the United States and to remain with their family.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports AB 2090 (Gonzalez Fletcher).

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 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