



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA CITY OF LONG BEACH

May 1, 2018

The Honorable Evan Low
California State Assemblyman
State Capitol, Room 4126
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 2943 (Low): Unlawful Business Practices: Sexual Orientation Change Efforts

Dear Assemblyman Low:

As Mayor of the City of Long Beach, ranked number two in the nation with Los Angeles and Santa Ana for having the greatest number of Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual Persons, I write in support AB 2943 (Low). This bill proposes to add sexual orientation change efforts, commonly known as conversion therapy, as an unlawful business practice prohibited under the Consumer Legal Remedies Act.

The American Psychological Association (APA) already advises parents, guardians, young people, and their families to avoid sexual orientation change efforts that portray homosexuality as a mental illness or developmental disorder. Rather, the APA advises anyone seeking direction related to sexual orientation to seek psychotherapy, social support, and educational services that provide accurate information on sexual orientation and sexuality, increase family and school support, and reduce rejection of sexual minority youth.

Long Beach takes pride in being named one of the best cities in the nation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer inclusion in municipal law and policy for six years in a row. In 2017, Long Beach was one of only 68 cities out of 506 nationwide to achieve a perfect score in the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index, largely due to the City's inclusive policies such as Workplace Inclusiveness Training, Non-Discrimination in City Employment, Trans-Inclusive Healthcare Benefits, and the City's Enumerated Anti-Bullying School Policies.

As we continue to celebrate our City's diversity and remain committed to strengthening the communities that make our city great, AB 2943 (Low) will help advance our commitment by bringing light to the fraudulent, unlawful, and misinformed efforts of conversion therapy business practices. Given these reasons, as Mayor of the City of Long Beach, I support AB 2943 (Low).

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach