



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA CITY OF LONG BEACH

April 23, 2018

The Honorable Jim Beall
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2209
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 912 (Beall): Housing: Homelessness Programs and Affordable Housing

Dear Chair Beall:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of Senate Bill 912 (Beall). SB 912 proposes to require \$2 billion to be allocated from the State General Fund to the Department of Housing and Community Development to assist with housing in two ways: (1) through new construction, rehabilitation, and preservation of permanent and transitional rental housing benefiting persons with incomes up to 60 percent of the area median income; and (2) to address youth homelessness and provide housing assistance for domestic violence survivors.

Long Beach is leading the region in support for affordable housing. We are proud to share that over the past 10 years, the City has facilitated the production of 1,778 new affordable units, preserved 2,093 existing units, and rehabilitated 367 units. Yet, the City is aware that the State of California is undergoing a housing shortage and affordability crisis. SB 912 takes a comprehensive approach by addressing affordable housing needs and the need for grant funding for supportive services provided by cities and counties. The City of Long Beach supports these efforts.

With respect to homelessness, the City of Long Beach recently launched the Everyone Home Long Beach Initiative. For years, the Long Beach Continuum of Care (CoC) has been nationally recognized as a well-coordinated system of care. While the City has been able to support a steady reduction in the total number of persons experiencing homelessness from 2011 to 2017 by 41%, as well as a reduction in chronic homelessness by 26%, as evidenced by the 2017 Biennial Homeless Count, it is clear additional funding is needed to support programming. SB 912 proposes to address housing and homelessness as related issues.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports SB 912 (Beall).

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
Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing