



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA CITY OF LONG BEACH

September 25, 2017

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for SB 31 (Lara) – The California Religious Freedom Act

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of SB 31 (Lara), the California Religious Freedom Act. On February 7, 2017, the Long Beach City Council voted to support this legislation. SB 31 would prohibit the State and local law enforcement agencies from providing, disclosing, or supporting financially, with personnel or equipment, the collection of personally identifiable information pertaining to the religious beliefs, practices or afflictions of any individual for the purpose of compiling a registry or database, except as part of a targeted investigation or to provide religious accommodations.

As a vibrant, multi-cultural city, Long Beach thrives on the ingenuity, entrepreneurship, and diversity of our immigrant communities and American-born residents. This diversity also includes diversity of religion. While the City does not have official statistics on the types of religious institutions in Long Beach, it is evident numerous places of worship exist peacefully throughout the City to serve a number of different religions; this is part of what makes Long Beach great.

Long Beach values the respect we have for one another's religion, and California must uphold the protection of religious freedom for all of its people. The First Amendment to the United States Constitution, guaranteeing the free exercise and enjoyment of religion without discrimination, is crucial to who we are as Americans.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach respectfully requests your signature on SB 31 (Lara).

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 Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Janet Nguyen, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District