



CITY OF LONG BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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PATRICK H. WEST
CITY MANAGER

July 17, 2017

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2059
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 687 (Skinner)—Support relating to Health Facilities: Emergency Centers: Attorney General

Dear Senator Skinner:

On behalf of the Long Beach City Council, I write to express support for Senate Bill 687 (Skinner). On April 18, 2017, the City Council voted to support this legislation. The City support the proposal to require a non-profit corporation that operates a hospital in California to obtain consent from the California State Attorney General before reducing services of or closing an emergency medical department.

Long Beach is proud to support policies that improve the quality of life of its residents by providing a healthy community in which to live, work, and play. We are aware a study in the Journal of Health Affairs has shown 26 California hospitals with emergency rooms (ERs) closed between 1999 and 2010. An additional 22 hospitals closed their ERs, but continued operating the rest of the hospital. Meanwhile, California saw a 27% increase in the total patient visits per emergency department between 1996 and 2009, and has the lowest number of emergency medical departments per capita in the nation.

Since visits to emergency medical departments can be inevitable at times, the City believes it is important to ensure the California State Attorney General has oversight over any closures. As a part of this oversight, SB 687 requires the Attorney General to hold at least one public hearing about the planned closure. This level of community outreach is important to our City Council.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports SB 687 (Skinner).

Sincerely,



Patrick H. West
CITY MANAGER

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