



**MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA**  
CITY OF LONG BEACH

July 12, 2019

The Honorable Evan Low  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Suite 4126  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for ACR 99 (Low): Civil Rights: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender People**

Dear Assemblymember Low:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write to support ACR 99 (Low). California made history in 2012 when it became the first state to explicitly protect Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) youth under 18 years of age from sexual orientation change efforts, commonly known as conversion therapy. ACR 99 calls upon all Californians to treat one another fairly, and upon religious leaders to counsel on LGBTQ matters with compassion and knowledge of the harms of conversion therapy.

The City, along with other levels of government and many non-profit programs covering Long Beach, offer benefits and services for its estimated 80,000 LGBTQ residents. Long Beach recognizes that despite our best efforts, more can be done to encourage awareness, acceptance, and respect for individual differences. Therefore, the City supports efforts, such as ACR 99, that emphasize relationship building with non-profit organizations to promote inclusivity. The City appreciates that ACR 99 was a collaborative effort involving faith and LGBTQ leaders seeking to find common ground.

Long Beach takes pride in being named as one of the best cities in the nation for LGBTQ inclusion in municipal law and policy for seven years in a row. In 2018, Long Beach was one of only 78 cities nationwide to achieve a perfect score in the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index. The City's inclusive policies include Workplace Inclusiveness Training, Non-Discrimination in City Employment, Trans-Inclusive Healthcare Benefits, and the City's Enumerated Anti-Bullying School Policies. As we remain committed to these policies, ACR 99 will help ensure that hate and discrimination have no place in our community.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports ACR 99 (Low).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia".

Mayor Robert Garcia  
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly  
The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Assembly, 33<sup>rd</sup> District  
The Honorable Tom Umberg, State Senate, 34<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70<sup>th</sup> District