



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

March 25, 2019

The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell
California State Assembly
1020 N. Street, Room 2163
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 1014 (O'Donnell) Health Facilities: Notices

Dear Assemblymember O'Donnell:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), I write in support of Assembly Bill 1014 (O'Donnell). This legislation amends the Health and Safety Code to require hospitals and health facilities to provide public notice of at least 180 days in advance of downgrading, changing, or closing. The extension of public notice from 90 days to 180 days allows communities to better plan for discrepancies in access to health services, if a facility were to close or provide reduced services.

The City supports legislation that enhances public health services. By requiring additional advanced notice to the public about upcoming changes in service or closure of a hospital or health facility, the City believes that the serviced community will be able to adequately prepare. While increased notice cannot guarantee a seamless transition for the hospital or health facility, it can help address community concerns.

It is imperative that Long Beach residents have access to health services and are active members of their community. When Long Beach Community Hospital closed in July 2018 due to the need for seismic retrofitting, Long Beach residents were vocal about the need to reopen the hospital. The City was attentive to the community and prioritized identifying a viable solution. Had the City had more time to strategize, the City could have worked to provide interim health services during remodeling. Extending public notice for hospitals and health facilities prior to downgrading, changing or closing, as AB 1014 (O'Donnell) proposes, would improve strategies to maintain access to health services for residents of Long Beach.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports AB 1014 (O'Donnell).

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 Tom Umberg, 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
Assembly Committee on Health