



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

May 2, 2019

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker of the Assembly
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 593 Unemployment insurance: use of information: public workforce development programs

Dear Speaker Rendon:

The City of Long Beach is pleased to support AB 593, legislation designed to help improve workforce programming and services from Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) across the State of California.

Through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) Federal funding to Local Workforce Development Boards come with some of the most stringent reporting requirements of job-training programs in the Country. This also means that extensive wage information is available from and stored in the State of California's Employment Development Department's (EDD) CalJOBS online database. Unfortunately, EDD's ability to share this information with local boards is limited by the current wording of the Unemployment Insurance Code (UIC). Access to this data is critical for long-range program effectiveness.

Through EDD's CalJOBS system LWDBs are currently able to obtain limited wage information for clients served with WIOA funding. Information includes: client name, social security number, workforce program completion dates, employer and quarterly wages for the 4 quarters following a client's completion of WIOA-funded workforce programming. This data allows local boards to track if WIOA clients gain employment and report wages in the 4 quarters after they have received workforce development services.

However, LWDBs often have diverse funding streams that include dollars beyond Federal WIOA funds, coming from county, city, State, or philanthropic sources. Some LWDBs in California have as little as 8% of their overall budget composed of federal funds. LWDBs must still report the clients served in CalJobs to EDD, no matter the funding stream.

To this end, current wording of the CUIC limits a LWDB using non-federal funds to track the effectiveness of their programs using CalJOBS data. This is limiting in ways including but not limited to:

- Restricting a LWDB's ability to reliably track if clients remain in their jobs after placement.
- Fully understand the impact of placing clients into career pathways, by eliminating our ability to track clients along their career progression several years out from the original placement.
- Assess long term impacts of programs compared to each other, not only at the local level, but at the Regional and State Level as well.

Currently, the Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network (PGWIN), which is housed within the City of Long Beach and serves Long Beach amongst other cities, has provided workforce services to 8,476 individuals during the last 10 months. Without access to the data this bill would create, PGWIN would only be able to track and report outcomes on 1,471 individuals. Access to data is essential to empowering our workforce development board with supporting our local workforce.

County Social Services Agencies are among several entities that already utilize this kind of access to the Base Wage File data discussed in this measure. By clarifying and expanding access to include LWDBs and County and City Agencies serving as a Federal Recognized LWDB, California can better analyze the investments we have made in Workforce Development over the years, and be better served to provide critical skills and services to our State's Job Seekers and Businesses.

The City of Long Beach again urges a "Yes" vote on AB 593. For further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Legislative Director Jessica Zaragoza at Jessica.zaragoza@asm.ca.gov.

In advance, thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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