



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

May 20, 2019

Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Kamala Harris
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Support for S. 923 (Feinstein) - Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act

Dear Senator Feinstein and Senator Harris:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of Senate Bill 923 (Feinstein), the Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act. This legislation proposes to address homelessness faced by Americans across the nation, including Long Beach residents, through the provision of a grant program that administers planning and implementation funding for local government entities.

The Long Beach Continuum of Care (CoC) is recognized by the United States Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) as a well-coordinated system of care. Our homeless services providers deliver evidence-based best practices to individuals and families, integrate all key partners into a Coordinated Entry System to maximize accessibility to services, and coordinate housing application and utilization processes linked to supportive services and financial assistance programming.

While Long Beach was able to support a reduction in the total number of persons experiencing homelessness in the City by 21 percent over the last three years, and a reduction in chronic homelessness by 26 percent, as evidenced by the 2017 Biennial Homeless Count, it is clear additional funding is needed. In recent years, HUD has moved away from funding homeless supportive services to focus more on permanent housing. While permanent housing is the goal, supportive services are critically needed to help individuals experiencing homelessness obtain and maintain permanent housing. Coordinated funds from S. 923 would provide local government entities with an opportunity to further and implement innovative solutions to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness maintain a successful transition to permanent housing.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports S. 923.

Sincerely,

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

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Congressman Alan Lowenthal, 47th District
The Honorable Congresswoman Nanette Barragan, 44th District