



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

March 13, 2024

The Honorable Robert Garcia
United States House of Representatives
1305 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for H.R. 7038—The Guaranteed Income for Foster Youth Act

Dear Congressman Garcia,

I am writing on behalf of the City of Long Beach (City) to express support for H.R. 7038, the Guaranteed Income for Foster Youth Act. H.R. 7038 would create a new federal program that authorizes States to provide \$1,000 per month to all foster youth, including youth with disabilities, who were in foster care after fourteen years of age, who exited foster care after sixteen years of age, and who have not yet turned 27 years of age.

The City's [2023 Homeless Point in Time Count Report](#) mirrors findings and research demonstrating prevalence of mental health issues and homelessness among persons with a history of adverse childhood experiences. According to the City's 2023 Point in Time Count, nearly thirteen percent of survey respondents under the age of 24 self-reported a history in foster care. The City supports legislation and funding to facilitate foster, transitional, and probation youth transition from the foster system into independent adulthood.

The City launched the Long Beach Pledge Guaranteed Income Pilot Program in November 2022 as part of the Long Beach Recovery Act to support economic recovery from the impacts of the pandemic. The program has provided critical funding for some of the City's most vulnerable households to cover their basic needs, ensure financial stability, and prevent homelessness. The first cohort included 250 beneficiaries whose households are made up of 937 total members including 583 children.

As data from the first cohort indicated significant housing insecurity, the City recently expanded the Long Beach Pledge Guaranteed Income Pilot Program with a second cohort in an effort to implement upstream homelessness prevention strategies. The expansion will provide monthly payments to 200 additional households utilizing \$1.2 million in funding made available through the City's local homelessness emergency proclamation. In alignment with the Long Beach Pledge Guaranteed Income Pilot Program, H.R. 7038 will contribute to providing financial stability and an equitable opportunity for former foster youth to thrive.

For these reasons, the City supports H.R. 7038.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Richardson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mayor Rex Richardson
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Senator Alex Padilla
The Honorable Senator Laphonza Butler
The Honorable Congressmember Nanette Barragan, 44th District