MAYOR
REX RICHARDSON

July 1, 2025

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Garcia
United States House of Representatives
109 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Schiff
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nanette Diaz Barragán
United States House of Representatives
2312 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Letter of Opposition to the One Big Beautiful Bill

Dear Senators Padilla and Schiff and Representatives Garcia and Barragán,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), the City is strongly opposed to the many harmful budget cuts included in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. The proposed budget cuts to Medicaid, reversal of clean energy tax credits, and termination of critical programs for children and young adults will have devastating impacts on the City and its residents.

In California, over 3 million individuals are projected to lose access to health care as a result of the proposed $880 billion cut to Medicaid over the next ten years. In Long Beach, that includes families, individuals young and old, those with serious health challenges, and people working to build a better life. Long Beach is one of three cities in California that operates its own health department, allowing for rapid response to local challenges and stronger coordination across the community. City staff play an active role in enrolling eligible individuals into Medicaid, or Medi-Cal in California, reducing the strain on emergency rooms and clinics that serve uninsured individuals. Dedicated public health professionals know that our entire community is stronger and healthier, when every resident has the services and resources they need to thrive.

The Healthcare sector provides nearly 16% of all jobs in the City and represents a significant share of economic activity. The City has invested heavily in educational partnership and workforce development opportunities to build a strong healthcare workforce across several local hospitals, clinics, Long Beach VA Medical Center and the City's own Health and Human Services Department. If Medicaid funding is cut, many of these employers may need to reduce their workforce, resulting in fewer appointments, longer wait times, and additional people forgoing the care they need.

When people lose their health insurance because of this legislation, they will lose access to critical support, including medications, preventative care, and mental health services. Aside from the immediate health impacts, many households may face difficult choices between paying for healthcare, and other essential services, like rent and food. The City does not have the resources needed to fill the massive gap in medical care and services this legislation will create.

In addition to the significant cuts to Medicaid, investments in clean energy and goods movement technology that have helped improve regional air quality and reduce health impacts for vulnerable households are also at risk. Repealing renewable energy tax credits as currently included in the legislation will slow the significant progress local businesses have made in transitioning their fleets to cleaner and zero-emission vehicles. The South Coast Air Basin, which includes the City of Long Beach, faces significant

challenges in meeting federal air quality standards, resulting in higher rates of respiratory diseases, and shorter life expectancies for neighborhoods adjacent to goods movement industries. Renewable energy tax credits have brought new opportunities and jobs to Long Beach, including investments in Hydrogen energy and emerging goods movement technologies, while also improving air quality.

The proposed 10-year ban on state and local AI regulation risks undermining the valuable role Long Beach and other local government policies play in protecting the public and responding to emerging challenges posed by AI systems. Completely sidelining states and local governments may lead to missed opportunities for innovation in policy and oversight. A decade-long regulatory freeze could allow harmful, biased, or exploitative AI technologies to spread without accountability. State and local governments should retain the authority to act quickly and locally to safeguard local civil rights, consumer protections, and public safety. A more balanced solution would allow federal standards to coexist with state-level flexibility. California is leading the nation in AI development while simultaneously enshrining consumer protections and safety into state law. The City supports the responsible use, oversight and development of AI, that does not put residents, city staff, and other users at risk.

Lastly, One Big Beautiful Bill's proposed $300 billion budget reduction over ten years for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or CalFresh in California, represents nearly 30% of SNAP's total budget. These potential cuts will push families into poverty and allow more children to go hungry over summer breaks. SNAP benefits keep food on the table for hardworking families, seniors, and people with disabilities, who already meet stringent work, income, or health requirements. Potentially 5.5 million low-income Californians are significantly at risk of losing access to healthy foods at school and at home under the proposed budget cuts.

Especially at risk is the Summer EBT program, known as SUN Bucks, which provides assistance to families during summer breaks, when school meals are not an option. Children should be focused on school and preparing for their future, not worrying about where their next meal may be. It also proposes eliminating SNAP-Ed, which teaches individuals and families receiving SNAP benefits how to make healthier food choices and to stay physically active. For nearly 20 years, the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services (Health Department) has received federal grant funding to provide evidence-based nutrition and physical activity education to youth, individuals, and families in underserved communities. The Health Department may potentially lose $900,000 annually, with 6.5 FTE staff impacted if SNAP-Ed is eliminated through the One Big Beautiful Bill.

The City of Long Beach remains deeply concerned about the potential impacts of the One Big Beautiful Bill on our residents. The proposed legislation would significantly reduce access to health care, nutritious food, clean air and stable employment for thousands of individuals and families in our community. These reductions would place a disproportionate burden on low-income and vulnerable populations and strain the City's ability to maintain essential services. The City remains committed to protecting the safety, health and well-being of every resident and urges Congress to reconsider provisions in the bill that undermine this shared goal. We appreciate your continued leadership and advocacy on behalf of the communities most affected by these proposed changes.

Sincerely,

Mayor Rex Richardson
City of Long Beach