



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA CITY OF LONG BEACH

March 13, 2018

The Honorable Philip Ting
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 3171 (Ting): Homeless Persons Services Block Grant

Dear Assemblymember Ting:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of Assembly Bill 3171 (Ting). AB 3171 proposes to establish a Local Homelessness Solutions Program and create the Local Homelessness Solutions Account for the purposes of providing funding to cities to create innovative and immediate solutions to the problems caused by homelessness.

The Long Beach Continuum of Care (CoC) is nationally recognized as a well-coordinated system of care. Our homeless services providers universally deliver evidence-based best practices to individuals and families regardless of their housing status, integrate all key partners into a Coordinated Entry System so there is a “no wrong door” approach to accessing 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% over the last two years and a reduction in chronic homelessness by 26%, as evidenced by the 2017 Biennial Homeless Count, it is clear additional funding is needed. In recent years, the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) has moved away from funding homeless supportive services in an effort to focus more on permanent housing. While permanent housing is the goal, supportive services are critically needed to help individuals experiencing homelessness maintain their permanent housing status. Matching funds from AB 3171 would provide cities with an opportunity to further innovative solutions that may help individuals experiencing homelessness maintain a successful transition to permanent housing.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports AB 3171 (Ting).

Sincerely,

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

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Janet Nguyen, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District