



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

March 12, 2020

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 5160
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 2037 (Wicks) Health Facilities: Notices

Dear Assemblymember Wicks:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), I write in support of Assembly Bill 2037 (Wicks). This legislation amends the Health and Safety Code to require hospitals with emergency medical services to provide public notice of at least 180 days in advance of planned reduction or elimination of emergency medical services with enhanced municipality notice requirements. The City has recently endured a hospital closure and understands the importance of AB 2037.

In July 2018, Long Beach Community Hospital (Community Hospital) closed due to the need for seismic retrofitting. Long Beach residents were vocal about the need to reopen the hospital. The City was attentive to the community and prioritized identifying a viable solution. On December 9, 2019, the City signed a long-term lease and operating agreement between the City and the Molina, Wu, Network, LLC healthcare group to pave the way for the reopening of Community Hospital. In addition to reopening the publicly accessible emergency department that once received 27,000 visits per year, the agreement helps the City to address challenges associated with public safety and people experiencing homelessness. While increased notice cannot guarantee a seamless transition for the emergency medical services facility, it can help address community concerns. With more time to strategize, the City could have worked to provide interim health services during remodeling.

The City supports legislation that enhances public health services. It is imperative that Long Beach residents have access to emergency medical services and are active members of their community. Extending public notice for hospitals with emergency medical services prior to reduction or elimination of services, as AB 2037 (Wicks) proposes, would improve strategies to maintain access to health services for residents of Long Beach.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports AB 2037 (Wicks).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia", enclosed in a dashed rectangular box.

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
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
Assembly Committee on Health

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