



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

September 8, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, Room 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Governor Newsom:

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 emergency medical facilities to provide additional public notice in advance of closing emergency medical services and prohibits reductions during any health-related state of emergency. 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 public emergency department that once received 27,000 visits per year, the agreement helps the City address challenges associated with public safety and people experiencing homelessness. While increased notice cannot guarantee a seamless transition for the emergency medical 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. Particularly during times of uncertainty, it is imperative that Long Beach residents have access to emergency medical services. Extending public notice for facilities with emergency medical services prior to reducing services and prohibiting reductions in service capacity amidst a health crisis, 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) and requests your signature on this bill.

Sincerely,

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

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

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