



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

September 15, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 826 (Santiago)—Emergency Food Assistance

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write to urge your signature in support of AB 826 (Santiago). This bill would provide disaster food assistance to reduce hunger during the COVID-19 pandemic. Food banks and immigrant-serving organizations would distribute funding to people who are low-income with a focus on those who are not eligible for other sources of government assistance.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected low-income and undocumented community members in California, many of whom have faced job loss or illness and are ineligible for most state or federal social service benefits. Furthermore, while the Pandemic EBT helped millions of families with children over the summer, this program has ended and additional federal resources are not guaranteed.

No one should go hungry in California, especially during a pandemic. The City supports legislation that funds healthy food access and ensures families have vital resources such as food. AB 826 would use proven practices from programs administered by food banks and other non-profits to safely and efficiently distribute food to everyone who needs it, regardless of immigration status.

Given these reasons, the City supports AB 826 and urges you to sign it into law.

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
The Honorable Miguel Santiago, State Assembly, 53rd District