



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

April 29, 2019

The Honorable Eloise Gómez Reyes
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2175
Sacramento, CA 94249-0047

RE: Support for AB 194 (Reyes): Childcare and Development Services

Dear Assemblymember Reyes:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), I write in support of Assembly Bill 194 (Reyes). This legislation proposes to improve access to early childhood development programs by allocating \$1 billion to alternative payment programs and general childcare for children from infancy to 13 years of age. By doing so, AB 194 increases opportunities for the Long Beach community to access childcare and enhance family quality of life.

Research demonstrates the first few years of life lay the foundation for lifelong success and investments in early childhood have the strongest social and economic impact. In 2018, the City, in partnership with the Mayor's Fund for Education, produced the City's first comprehensive Early Childhood Education Strategic Plan (Plan). This Plan seeks to increase access and affordability of early care and education while improving quality of services.

Long Beach is a young and vibrant City, making this is an exciting time to engage in early childhood development. With that said, 16,164 children in Long Beach are eligible for state and federal early childhood subsidies but remain unserved. Statistics show 46 percent of children living in the 90813-zip code, which is a disadvantaged community per the California Environmental Agency's CalEnviroScreen, live in poverty; even in wealthier areas of the City, 3.6 percent of children live in poverty. When the average cost of annual child care for family childcare is \$8,000, increasing to more than \$13,000 for center childcare, additional aid must be made available to ensure more children have access to a brighter future.

AB 194 will provide families with additional options to access early childhood development programs. The bill is consistent with the goals of the Long Beach Early Childhood Education Strategic Plan.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports AB 194 (Reyes).

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 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