



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

March 18, 2019

The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2196
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 751 (O'Donnell): Pupil Assessments: Pathways to College Act

Dear Assemblymember O'Donnell:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of Assembly Bill 751 (O'Donnell). This legislation gives all school districts throughout the state the choice to administer a college admissions test such as the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) or American College Testing (ACT) to their 11th grade students in lieu of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) during the school day and free of charge.

Our Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) has been one of over 40 school districts to offer alternative college entrance exams, in addition to the CAASPP, to 11th grade students. This practice is in line with the Long Beach College Promise, of which the City of Long Beach is a partner organization. Since the Long Beach College Promise began in 2008, LBUSD student graduation rates have been increasing, remedial courses for English and Math are decreasing, and CSULB enrollment rates are rising.

Offering the SAT or ACT exams free of charge and during the school day increases our students' chances for success in college. The ability for Long Beach's high school students to take these important college entrance exams at the safety and security of their own high

school campuses during the day, gives students an environment to perform to the best of their ability. The City supports the ability for all school districts to have the flexibility to offer these exams during the day.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports AB 751 (O'Donnell).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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 Tom Umberg, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
Assembly Committee on Education