



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

July 15, 2019

The Honorable Scott Wiener
California State Capitol
State Capitol, Room 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 285 (Wiener) Public Social Services

Dear Senator Wiener:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), I write to support Senate Bill 285 (Wiener). This bill proposes to increase participation in public social services, including, but not limited to, CalFresh and Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC). As a City with one of three health departments in Los Angeles County (County), the City appreciates that SB 285 recognizes the need to increase enrollment in these important community wellness programs.

The City is committed to promoting access to services, especially those that improve neighborhoods and community wellness. According to estimates from the May 2019 Local Agency participation report, 62,188 out of 100,303 Long Beach residents eligible for CalFresh are enrolled in the program. This does not include the estimated 39,946 residents, including older adults and people with disabilities, who may be eligible for CalFresh as of June 1, 2019 due to the historic expansion for Supplemental Security Income recipients. Additionally, 14,430 out of 16,007 Long Beach residents eligible for WIC are enrolled. The City is interested in increasing program participation so that every one of our residents eligible for the programs can benefit. SB 285 recognizes the gap in participation and proposes to close this gap by committing to enroll all eligible residents by simplifying the application process, providing improved linguistic access, and enhancing data collection for quality improvements.

To keep Californians healthy, the federal government allocates funding for public services based on County demographics. The City supports the State Legislature's efforts to ensure that every eligible Californian can access these existing resources. The City supports the opportunity SB 285 provides for increased collaboration to promote enrollment in public social services.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports SB 285 (Wiener).

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