

PATRICK H. WEST  
City Manager

August 6, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Skinner  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5094  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Opposition for SB 206 (Skinner): Collegiate Athletics: Fair Pay to Play Act**

Dear Senator Skinner:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), I write in opposition of SB 206 (Skinner). This legislation proposes to permit college athletes to earn compensation through corporate sponsorship and prohibits universities from interfering. In Long Beach, Long Beach City College (LBCC) and California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) serve as local education hubs. As a member of the Long Beach College Promise (Promise), the City has an interest in ensuring CSULB has ample resources to focus on providing local students with a quality education.

The premise of the Promise is that all students deserve an opportunity to succeed. This belief sustains the City's partnership in its Promise to prepare all students for academia, extra-curricular activities and their future careers. Established in 2008, the Promise provides Long Beach Unified School District students two tuition-free years at LBCC and/or guaranteed admission to CSULB, contingent upon their ability to meet eligibility requirements. In March of 2019, an expanded version of the Promise was launched to provide dual-advising services and admission pathways to specific majors at CSULB.

The City supports the Promise. Allowing college athletes to accept corporate sponsorships, as SB 206 proposes, is likely to deter universities investments in local students. The City enjoys the amateur sport experience that CSULB Athletics contributes to Long Beach. SB 206 would adversely change the experience for local students and community fans.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach respectfully opposes SB 206 (Skinner).

Sincerely,



Patrick H. West  
CITY MANAGER

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly  
The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33<sup>rd</sup> District  
The Honorable Tom Umberg, State Senate, 34th District  
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District  
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District

