



**MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA**  
CITY OF LONG BEACH

September 8, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, Room 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for SB 932 (Wiener): Communicable Diseases: Data Collection**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), I write to support Senate Bill 932 (Wiener). This bill proposes to require electronic tools used for reporting communicable diseases to collect and report data relating to sexual orientation and gender identity. This would help improve the efficacy of the City's public health efforts related to the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure that we are able to provide equitable services to all community members.

Long Beach is proud to be one of the most diverse cities in the country, and we are committed to advancing equity across City programs and services. As the City manages the COVID-19 public health response, we are working diligently to address disparities faced by communities that are hit hardest by the virus. Currently, we are using the State Department of Public Health forms for data collection, which only ask COVID-positive individuals about the gender of their sex partners (if they are over the age of 18). However, there is great benefit to the statewide program outlined in SB 932, to provide a consistent mechanism to track any disparities based on sexual orientation and gender identity. As with other data collection efforts, this information would be requested on a voluntary basis and would be protected by health information privacy laws.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports SB 932 (Wiener) and requests your signature on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia", written over a light blue rectangular background.

Mayor Robert Garcia  
City of Long Beach

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, 34<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70<sup>th</sup> District