



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

April 7, 2021

The Honorable Evan Low
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4126
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 1338 (Low)—Public Social Services Programs: Gross Income Exclusion

Dear Assemblymember Low,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write to support AB 1338, which would exempt guaranteed income payments through a pilot or research program from interfering with recipients' eligibility for State social safety net benefits, such as CalWORKs and CalFresh, and State tax calculations affecting Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

In 2017, the Long Beach City Council adopted the City's 10-Year Blueprint for Economic Development (Blueprint) to define priorities leading toward the creation of businesses and well-paying jobs and to increase the standards of living for all Long Beach residents. An important goal of the Blueprint is to create a more inclusive economy for all workers, investors, and entrepreneurs in Long Beach. As the income gap continues to grow, especially for people of color, basic needs such as housing, healthcare, and transportation are becoming less affordable and attainable. Allowing future guaranteed income program participants to remain eligible for public social services, as AB 1338 proposes, will help to alleviate income inequality.

Long Beach has begun its own guaranteed income pilot programs. On September 8, 2020, the Long Beach City Council unanimously approved a resolution to support the Universal Basic Income Initiative as well as State efforts to support residents disadvantaged by the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of the City's FY 21 Budget, the City dedicated \$100,000 in one-time reserves to hire staff to develop public banking and universal basic income pilots in Long Beach. Both programs are overseen by the local workforce development agency, Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network, located in Long Beach. AB 1338 would enhance the economic opportunities for Long Beach participants in the City's guaranteed income programs.

The City supports legislation to bolster the City's Universal Basic Income initiative. AB 1338 will ensure all basic universal income program recipients remain eligible for State social safety net benefits and California EITC. Given these reasons, the City supports AB 1338.

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 Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
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