



**MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA**  
CITY OF LONG BEACH

May 5, 2021

The Honorable Adrin Nazarian  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 4146  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for AB 97 (Nazarian)—Health Care Coverage: Insulin Affordability**

Dear Assemblymember Nazarian,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write to support AB 97. This bill would require health and disability insurance policies to cover insulin deductibles. As a local health jurisdiction, Long Beach experiences firsthand the importance of accessible healthcare coverage to address public health disparities.

Low-income and Black and Latino populations experience disproportionately higher rates of chronic diseases. Since October 2003, the City Council has authorized funding for the City's Department of Health and Human Services (Health Department) Healthy Active Long Beach (HALB) Project, which addresses obesity and chronic disease rates in Long Beach. Several community organizations are involved with the HALB Project to increase outreach and utilize trusted community messengers. Additionally, the Health Department launched a Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Zone Initiative in North Long Beach to help make healthy choices accessible to people in underserved communities and, in turn, prevent obesity-related conditions such as diabetes and heart disease.

Under our current healthcare system, nearly 3 million Californians remain uninsured, and even more residents are underinsured and cannot afford to pay rising health costs. The City supports legislation to expand access to private and public health insurance coverage for all residents, which AB 97 would help to accomplish by expanding deductible coverage for Californians.

Given these reasons, the City supports AB 97.

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, 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