



# MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

June 29, 2023

The Honorable Scott Wiener  
California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Suite 8620  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for SB 407 (Wiener)—Foster care: resource families**

Dear Senator Wiener,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of SB 407 (Wiener). This bill would strengthen the resource family approval process for LGBTQ youth by requiring a caregiver who provides out-of-home care for children in foster care to demonstrate the capacity to meet the needs of a child, regardless of the child's sexual orientation or gender identity. This bill would require the applicant to demonstrate that understanding through signing a document acknowledging foster youth rights. SB 407 aligns with the City's objectives to support legislation that contributes to enhancing the social and emotional well-being of foster youth.

In California, roughly 60,000 children are in the foster care system. Approximately 30 percent of youth in foster care identify as LGBTQ. The degree of support that an LGBTQ child receives at home regarding their identity is a strong predictor of their mental health outcomes. The City's [2023 Homeless Point in Time Count Report](#) revealed that adverse childhood experiences is associated with mental health issues and with the severity of an individual's experience with homelessness. Respondents who identified as having experienced trauma during their childhood were 47 percent more likely to have serious mental health issues and 34 percent more likely to be chronically homeless than individuals without childhood trauma. SB 407 will help ensure that LGBTQ foster youth are in supportive and nurturing homes where they can thrive.

SB 407 will improve foster care conditions for LGBTQ youth and reduce their risk for homelessness, involvement with the criminal justice system, and mental health challenges. For these reasons, the City supports SB 407.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Richardson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mayor Rex Richardson  
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33<sup>rd</sup> District  
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 65<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Josh Lowenthal, State Assembly, 69<sup>th</sup> District