



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

September 14, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 1215 (Carrillo)—Pets Assistance with Support Grant Program

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I urge your signature on AB 1215. This bill would create the Pets Assistance with Support (PAWS) Grant Program to award grants to qualified homeless shelters and qualified domestic violence shelters for food and basic veterinarian services for pets owned by people experiencing homelessness or escaping domestic violence, upon appropriation by the Legislature. AB 1215 aligns with the City's objectives to support legislation and funding that reduces homelessness.

The City's 2022 count found that approximately 3,300 people are experiencing homelessness in Long Beach at any given point in time. The City estimates that nearly 20 percent of people experiencing homelessness in Long Beach own pets, and these pets are allowed in Long Beach homeless shelters with their owners. AB 1215 will provide the funding needed for pets to receive food and basic veterinarian services while their owners access City services.

AB 1215 aligns with the City's efforts to reduce barriers to shelter by ensuring resources for pets owned by people experiencing homelessness. For these reasons, the City requests your signature on AB 1215.

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, 33rd District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 65th District
The Honorable Josh Lowenthal, State Assembly, 69th District