



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 1536 (Juan Carrillo and Santiago)—Cash Assistance Program for Aged, Blind, and Disabled Immigrants

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I urge your signature on AB 1536 (Juan Carrillo and Santiago). This bill would provide cash assistance to aged, blind, and disabled individuals, regardless of immigration status, and would exempt undocumented individuals from having to apply for Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Program (SSI/SSP) in order to receive benefits under Cash Assistance for Aged, Blind, and Disabled Legal Immigrants (CAPI). AB 1536 is aligned with the City's equity priorities to ensure that all people in Long Beach have what they need to thrive.

In 2018, the Long Beach City Council adopted the [Long Beach Values Act](#), which protects the confidentiality of local immigrant residents and their information, and affirmed the City's commitment to advocating for pro-immigrant policies. The City Council also approved the Long Beach Justice Fund to provide free legal representation to undocumented immigrants who live or work in Long Beach and are facing deportation. Despite these investments in immigration resources locally, many undocumented individuals need additional state support to ensure their basic needs are met. This is especially true for undocumented aged, blind, and disabled immigrants who do not qualify for cash assistance, due to federal and state cash assistance program requirements that exclude certain immigration statuses. Currently, CAPI is available to income-qualifying immigrants residing in California who are 65 years of age or older, blind, or disabled, and ineligible for SSI/SSP solely due to their status. Assembly Bill 1536 would expand CAPI to allow all aged, blind, and disabled immigrants access to monthly cash assistance benefits regardless of documentation status.

This economic aid will provide relief to California's most vulnerable seniors and disabled undocumented population. Furthermore, AB 1536 will protect personally identifying information by waiving the requirement to apply for SSI to be eligible for CAPI benefits. For these reasons, the City requests your signature on AB 1536.

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