



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON
CITY OF LONG BEACH

September 12, 2025

RE: Signature Request for AB 1261 (Bonta)—Immigration: immigrant youth: access to legal counsel

Dear Governor Newsom,

The City of Long Beach (City) is proud to support its diverse and vibrant immigrant communities. Long Beach would not be the city it is today without the generations of immigrants who have built our economy, enriched our culture, and strengthened our collective spirit. The destructive and illegal actions by federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents across Southern California in recent months has caused untold harm within countless families and neighborhoods. These actions do not make us safer, and do not reflect the values of this City. **AB 1261 (Bonta)** would establish the right to legal representation for unaccompanied children in immigration court proceedings.

The City will continue to actively support and evaluate legislation at the local, state, and federal levels, while pursuing legal advocacy and strategic partnerships that uplift and empower immigrant communities. The City acknowledges the fear created by unidentified and masked agents in Long Beach and affirms that building community trust and honoring the dignity of every individual is essential to effective public safety efforts. Legislation to address this issue must be enforceable and effective in producing the transparency and respect every resident deserves.

The City remains deeply committed to protecting families, advancing dignity, and honoring the invaluable contributions of every resident—regardless of where they were born or what language they speak. For these reasons, the City requests your signature for AB 1261.

Sincerely,

Rex Richardson
Mayor of Long Beach