



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

August 25, 2020

The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee
U.S. House of Representatives
2079 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for H.R. 40: Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act

Dear Congresswoman Jackson Lee,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write to support H.R. 40 (Jackson Lee), the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act. This bill proposes to establish a commission to study proposals for reparations for the institution of slavery in the United States and develop recommendations to address economic and racial discrimination.

In response to the tragic death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on May 25, 2020, the Long Beach City Council voted unanimously to adopt a Framework for Reconciliation, to engage in a public listening process, internal policy review, and a local action plan to advance racial equity in Long Beach. On August 11, 2020, the Long Beach City Council unanimously approved the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative's Initial Report based on an extensive reconciliation process. The first step of this process was to acknowledge the existence and longstanding impacts of systemic racism in America. Study and offering remedies to racial injustice in this country, as H.R. 40 proposes, would help strengthen our local efforts and policies through the Framework for Reconciliation.

The City supports the use of an equity lens in policy and program design. Establishing a federal commission to consider the unfair treatment of African Americans will shine light on inequities that persist today and provide a valuable resource to shape policy outcomes and improve racial equity.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports H.R. 40 (Jackson Lee).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia".

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Senator Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Senator Kamala Harris
The Honorable Congressman Alan Lowenthal, 47th District
The Honorable Congressman Nanette Barragan, 44th District