



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA

CITY OF LONG BEACH

May 1, 2018

The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2196
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 1951 (O'Donnell): Pupil Assessments: Pathways to College Act

Dear Assemblymember O'Donnell:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of Assembly Bill 1951 (O'Donnell). This legislation gives all high schools throughout the state the choice to administer a college admissions test like the SAT or ACT to their 11th grade students in lieu of the state assessment, during the school day and free of charge.

Our Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) has been one of over 30 school districts to administer college entrance exams to 11th grade students. This practice is in line with the Long Beach College Promise, of which Long Beach is a partner organization. Since the Long Beach College Promise began in 2008, LBUSD student graduation rates have been increasing, remedial courses for English and Math are decreasing, and CSULB enrollment rates are rising.

Administering the SAT or ACT exams free of charge and during the school day, instead of the weekend, removes a barrier for students who may not otherwise have access to the exam due to costs or transportation. The ability for our high school students to take these important exams at their own high school campus gives them an environment to perform to the best of their ability, which affects their higher education path. All school districts should have the flexibility to offer these exams to their students.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports AB 1951 (O'Donnell).

Sincerely,

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

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach