April 9, 2018

The Honorable Mark Stone, Chair
California State Assembly Judiciary Committee
State Capitol, Room 104
Sacramento, CA 95814


Dear Chair Stone:

As Mayor of the City of Long Beach, ranked number two in the nation with Los Angeles and Santa Ana for having the greatest number of Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual Persons, I write in support AB 2943 (Low). This bill proposes to add sexual orientation change efforts, commonly known as conversion therapy, as an unlawful business practice prohibited under the Consumer Legal Remedies Act.

The American Psychological Association (APA) already advises parents, guardians, young people, and their families to avoid sexual orientation change efforts that portray homosexuality as a mental illness or developmental disorder. Rather, the APA advises anyone seeking direction related to sexual orientation and sexuality, increase family and school support, and reduce rejection of sexual minority youth.

Long Beach takes pride in being named one of the best cities in the nation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer inclusion in municipal law and policy for six years in a row. In 2017, Long Beach was one of only 68 cities out of 506 nationwide to achieve a perfect score in the Human Rights Campaign’s Municipal Equality Index, largely due to the City’s inclusive policies such as Workplace Inclusiveness Training, Non-Discrimination in City Employment, Trans-Inclusive Healthcare Benefits, and the City’s Enumerated Anti-Bullying School Policies.

As we continue to celebrate our City’s diversity and remain committed to strengthening the communities that make our city great, AB 2943 (Low) will help advance our commitment by bringing light to the fraudulent, unlawful, and misinformed efforts of conversion therapy business practices. Given these reasons, as Mayor of the City of Long Beach, I support AB 2943 (Low).

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
    The Honorable Evan Low, State Assembly, 28th District
    The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
    The Honorable Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33rd District
    The Honorable Janet Nguyen, State Senate, 34th District
    The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
    The Honorable Patrick O’Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District