



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

May 18, 2020

The Honorable Scott Wiener
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 932 (Wiener): Communicable Diseases: COVID-19: Data Collection

Dear Senator Wiener,

As Mayor of the City of Long Beach (City), I write to support Senate Bill 932 (Wiener). This bill proposes a statewide standard for data collection related to sexual orientation and gender identity of individuals who are diagnosed with COVID-19. It will improve the efficacy of the City's public health efforts related to the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure that we are able to provide equitable services to all community members.

Long Beach is proud to be one of the most diverse cities in the country. As the City manages the COVID-19 public health response, we are working diligently to address disparities faced by communities that are hit hardest by the virus. Currently, Long Beach uses State Department of Public Health forms for collecting data on individuals who test positive for coronavirus. However, the City also recognizes that there is great value to the statewide program outlined in SB 932. This bill would provide a consistent mechanism to track information related to sexual orientation and gender identity as it relates to coronavirus. As with other data collection efforts, the information would be requested on a voluntary basis and protected by privacy laws.

Data has always been a valuable part of problem solving, and as we continue to learn more about coronavirus, the framework proposed by SB 932 is important.

Given these reasons, I support SB 932 (Wiener).

Sincerely,

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

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Tom Umberg, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District