



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

July 31, 2020

The Honorable Jack Reed
United States Senate
728 Hart, Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Andy Levin
United States House of Representatives
228 Cannon, House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for the Library Stabilization Fund Act (Reed and Levin)

Dear Senator Reed and Representative Levin,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of the Library Stabilization Fund Act (Reed and Levin). The COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant fiscal strain on the public library system in Long Beach, leading to disruptions in core library services and access to vital public resources. The \$2 billion in funding proposed in the Library Stabilization Fund Act would help to retain critical workforce, bridge the digital divide, and foster literacy and learning in our most underserved communities.

A recipient of the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the Long Beach Public Library (LBPL) proudly offers free and equal access to workforce development assistance, learning resources, and digital technology. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the fundamental role libraries play in our community. Many Long Beach residents rely on our libraries to access essential services like the Internet. Closing libraries to the public has left many community members without resources to support distance learning, facilitate employment opportunities, and advance early education and literacy.

While facility closures have been necessary to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the library system has been quick to offer resources during the emergency, including a virtual summer reading program to promote literacy and video game development workshops to advance youth creativity. Our library also established LBPL To-Go, a contactless pick-up service allowing residents to continue to access materials during the State and local public health orders.

The City supports funding for the public library system, and the grants proposed by the Library Stabilization Fund Act would help our libraries safely reopen to the public. In Long Beach, the funds would not only support staffing, protective equipment, and medical supplies, but also expand digital inclusion programs and public health resources in our libraries.

For these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports the Library Stabilization Fund Act (Reed and Levin).

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