



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

June 10, 2024

The Honorable Adam Schiff
United States House of Representatives
2309 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for The Guaranteed Additional Income for Families in Need (GAIN) Act (Schiff)

Dear Congressman Schiff,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), I write in support of the Guaranteed Additional Income for Families in Need (GAIN) Act. This bill would direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a demonstration project to test the impact of a guaranteed monthly income on the health of individuals enrolled for medical assistance under the Medicaid program.

Economic security, or the ability to cover basic expenses and plan for the future, is a social determinant of health. Researchers have deemed income volatility a public health threat, citing clinical evidence linking income volatility to increased incidence of cardiovascular disease, depression and anxiety, and cognitive decline. According to the City's [2019 Community Health Assessment](#), the median household income in Long Beach (\$55,151) is lower than that of Los Angeles County (\$57,952) and California (\$63,783). ZIP Code 90808 has the highest median household income (\$97,500), while ZIP Code 90813 has the lowest median household income (\$31,775), representing a gap of \$65,725. The GAIN Act would establish a targeted demonstration program to provide low-income households with a guaranteed income.

This bill would create a new federal program that authorizes a municipality, a special district, a school district, a county, a council of governments, an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization, and a nonprofit organization to participate in the demonstration program. Participating Medicaid beneficiaries will receive a \$500 payment each month to address income volatility and, ultimately, improve health outcomes. Data will be collected to determine how the monthly payments are spent and the impact on each participant.

The City launched the Long Beach Pledge Guaranteed Income Pilot Program in November 2022 as part of the Long Beach Recovery Act to support economic recovery from the impacts of the pandemic. The program has provided critical funding for some of the City's most vulnerable households to cover their basic needs, ensure financial stability, and prevent homelessness. The first cohort included 250 beneficiaries whose households are made up of 937 total members including 583 children.

As data from the first cohort indicated significant housing insecurity, the City recently expanded the Long Beach Pledge Guaranteed Income Pilot Program with a second cohort in an effort to implement upstream homelessness prevention strategies. The expansion will provide monthly payments to 200 additional households utilizing \$1.2 million in funding made available through the City's local homelessness emergency proclamation. In alignment with the Long Beach Pledge Guaranteed Income Pilot Program, the GAIN Act will contribute to alleviating stress and instilling certainty and financial security for households experiencing financial volatility, leading to improved health outcomes.

For these reasons, the City supports the GAIN Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Richardson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mayor Rex Richardson
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Senator Alex Padilla
The Honorable Senator Laphonza Butler
The Honorable Congressmember Robert Garcia, 42nd District
The Honorable Congressmember Nanette Barragan, 44th District