



## MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA CITY OF LONG BEACH

March 29, 2017

The Honorable Jim Wood  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Health  
State Capitol Building, Room 6005  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Support for AB 391 (Chiu)—Medi-Cal: Asthma Preventive Services**

Dear Assemblymember Wood:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of Assembly Bill 391 (Chiu). This bill would make asthma preventive services more accessible to the State's most vulnerable populations by providing the State Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) with statutory authority to reimburse qualified service providers for asthma education services, environmental trigger assessments, case management, and other preventive services.

Currently, over five million Californians have been diagnosed with asthma. This respiratory condition is of special concern to low-income Californians, who may be enrolled in Medi-Cal. The City of Long Beach recognizes the need for comprehensive asthma preventative services in our region and has partnered with local service providers and the Port of Long Beach to improve the livability of neighborhoods and homes along the major freeways (I-710 and I-405). Long Beach looks forward to the passage of AB 391, so that these asthma service providers may have the resources to offer a wider range of asthma preventative education services.

Programs such as the Asthma Life Skills Academy (ALSAA) and the Community Asthma and Air Quality Education (CAARE) Projects are critical to improving the health of families living along the I-710 and I-405 freeways. By offering customized home visit assessments and health education, these programs are improving health outcomes in communities that are at greater risk for asthma and other respiratory conditions. AB 391 will increase access for Medi-Cal beneficiaries to asthma education and home environmental asthma trigger assessments by enabling DHCS to cover these services that fall outside of the state's clinical licensure system, provided the services have been initially recommended by a licensed practitioner. If additional Medi-Cal resources are made available, the ALSAA and CAARE Projects could have a more positive impact on Long Beach.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports AB 391 (Chiu).

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Garcia  
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly  
The Honorable Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33<sup>rd</sup> District  
The Honorable Janet Nguyen, State Senate, 34<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70<sup>th</sup> District