



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA CITY OF LONG BEACH

July 13, 2017

The Honorable David Chiu
California State Assembly
State Capitol Building, Room 4112
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Assemblymember Chiu,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write to affirm the City's 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 issue reimbursements for qualified service providers, so long as the services have been initially recommended by a licensed practitioner.

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.

Customized home visit assessments and health education programs such as the Asthma Life Skills Academy (ALSAA) and the Community Asthma and Air Quality Education (CAARE) Project are critical to improving the health of families living along the I-710 and I-405 freeways. 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. If additional Medi-Cal resources are made available, the ALSAA and CAARE Projects could have an even more positive impact in 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, 33rd District
The Honorable Janet Nguyen, 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