



CITY OF LONG BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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PATRICK H. WEST
CITY MANAGER

May 24, 2018

The Honorable Evan Low
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4126
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 2943 (Low): Unlawful Business Practices: Sexual Orientation Change Efforts

Dear Assemblymember Low:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of AB 2943 (Low). California made history in 2012 when it became the first state to explicitly protect Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Queer (LGBTQ) youth under 18 years old from sexual orientation change efforts, commonly known as conversion therapy. AB 2943 extends the protection to all LGBTQ Californians by adding conversion therapy as an unlawful business practice prohibited under the Consumer Legal Remedies Act.

The City of Long Beach has an estimated 80,000 LGBTQ residents. On May 15, 2018, the Long Beach City Council voted to support AB 2943 (Low). The American Psychological Association (APA) already advises parents, guardians, young people, and their families to avoid sexual orientation change efforts that portray homosexuality as a mental illness or developmental disorder. Rather, the APA advises anyone seeking direction related to sexual orientation to seek psychotherapy, social support, and educational services that provide accurate information on sexual orientation and sexuality, increase family and school support, and reduce rejection of sexual minority youth.

Long Beach takes pride in being named as one of the best cities in the nation for LGBTQ inclusion in municipal law and policy for six years in a row. In 2017, Long Beach was one of only 68 cities out of 506 nationwide to achieve a perfect score in the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index (MEI). The City's inclusive policies include Workplace Inclusiveness Training, Non-Discrimination in City Employment, Trans-Inclusive Healthcare Benefits, and the City's Enumerated Anti-Bullying School Policies. As we remain committed to these policies, AB 2943 will help ensure that so-called conversion therapy does not have a place in our economy.

Given these reasons, the City supports AB 2943 (Low).

Sincerely,



Patrick H. West
CITY MANAGER

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