



## MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA CITY OF LONG BEACH

March 13, 2018

The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 2196  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for AB 1951 (O'Donnell): Pupil Assessments: Pathways to College Act**

Dear Assemblymember O'Donnell:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of Assembly Bill 1951 (O'Donnell). This legislation gives all high schools throughout the state the choice to administer a college admissions test like the SAT or ACT to their 11<sup>th</sup> grade students in lieu of the state assessment, during the school day and free of charge.

Our Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) has been one of over 30 school districts to administer college entrance exams to 11<sup>th</sup> grade students. This practice is in line with the Long Beach College Promise, of which Long Beach is a partner organization. Since the Long Beach College Promise began in 2008, LBUSD student graduation rates have been increasing, remedial courses for English and Math are decreasing, and CSULB enrollment rates are rising.

Administering the SAT or ACT exams free of charge and during the school day, instead of the weekend, removes a barrier for students who may not otherwise have access to the exam due to costs or transportation. The ability for our high school students to take these important exams at their own high school campus gives them an environment to perform to the best of their ability, which affects their higher education path. All school districts should have the flexibility to offer these exams to their students.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports AB 1951 (O'Donnell).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia".

Mayor Robert Garcia  
City of Long Beach

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