



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA CITY OF LONG BEACH

April 17, 2018

The Honorable Jim Beall
California State Senate Transportation and Housing Committee
State Capitol, Room 2209
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Support for SB 918 (Wiener): Homeless Youth Act of 2018

Dear Chair Beall:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of Senate Bill 918 (Wiener). This bill seeks to address California's homelessness crisis as it relates to California's youth by proposing to establish the Office of Homeless Youth (Office) in the Department of Housing and Community Development. Further, SB 918 would enable grant programs for young people experiencing homelessness and their families, funded by the Youth Education, Prevention, Early Intervention, and Treatment Account.

The City of Long Beach is committed to supporting the safety and well-being of all our communities, including youth experiencing homelessness. Through Long Beach's nationally recognized Continuum of Care (CoC), our homeless services providers universally deliver evidence-based best practices to youth, individuals and families regardless of their housing status; integrate all key partners into a Coordinated Entry System so there is a "no wrong door" approach to accessing services; and coordinate housing application and utilization processes linked to supportive services and financial assistance programming. While Long Beach was able to support a reduction in the total number of persons experiencing homelessness in the City by 21% over the last two years and a reduction in chronic homelessness by 26%, as evidenced by the 2017 Biennial Homeless Count, it is clear additional funding is needed to do more.

The Long Beach CoC actively partners with 13 local organizations to provide rapid rehousing, transitional housing, permanent housing and supportive services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Through the City's partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Long Beach is able to provide a variety of supportive programs including the Family Preservation Program for children and youth who are at risk of out of home placement. The City believes SB 918 will help provide additional resources to assist youth with achieving self-sufficiency through housing and supportive services.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach strongly supports SB 918 (Wiener).

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 Scott Wiener, State Senate, 11th District
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