



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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PATRICK H. WEST  
CITY MANAGER

May 10, 2017

The Honorable Ed Hernandez  
California State Senate Committee on Health  
State Capitol, Room 2191  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 687 (Skinner)—Support relating to Health Facilities: Emergency Centers: Attorney General**

Dear Senator Hernandez:

On behalf of the Long Beach City Council, I write to express support for Senate Bill 687 (Skinner). On April 18, 2017, the City Council voted to approve a motion in support of this legislation. SB 687 would require a non-profit corporation that operates or controls a hospital in California to obtain consent from the State Attorney General before reducing services of or closing an emergency department. The bill also requires the Attorney General to hold at least one public hearing about the planned closure and directs the Attorney General to consider the impacts a closure would have on the accessibility of health care services in the surrounding community.

The City of Long Beach is proud to promote policies that improve the quality of life of its residents by providing a healthy community in which to live, work, and play. We are aware that a study in the Journal of Health Affairs has shown 26 California hospitals with emergency rooms (ERs) closed between 1999 and 2010. An additional 22 hospitals closed their ERs, but continued operating the rest of the hospital. Meanwhile, California saw a 27% increase in the total patient visits per emergency department between 1996 and 2009 and has the lowest number of emergency departments per capita in the nation.

While Long Beach makes efforts engage residents in preventive health practices, the City is aware that visits to the emergency centers are sometimes inevitable. That is why it is important to ensure the Attorney General has oversight in cases where an emergency room will be closed, so that the needs of the communities that depend on these centers are adequately considered.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports SB 687 (Skinner).

Sincerely,

Patrick H. West  
CITY MANAGER

CC: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly  
The Honorable Senator Nancy Skinner, 9<sup>th</sup> District  
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  
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70<sup>th</sup> District