



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 1014 (O'Donnell) Health Facilities: Notices

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), I write in support of Assembly Bill 1014 (O'Donnell). This legislation amends the Health and Safety Code to require hospitals and health facilities to double public notice in advance of downgrading, changing, or closing. The extension of public notice allows communities to better plan for discrepancies in access to health services, if a facility were to close or provide reduced services.

The City supports legislation that enhances public health services. By requiring additional advanced notice to the public about upcoming changes in service or closure of a hospital or health facility, the City believes that the serviced community will be able to adequately prepare. While increased notice cannot guarantee a seamless transition for the hospital or health facility, it can help address community concerns.

It is imperative that Long Beach residents have access to health services and are active members of their community. When Long Beach Community Hospital closed in July 2018 due to the need for seismic retrofitting, Long Beach residents were vocal about the need to reopen the hospital. The City was attentive to the community and prioritized identifying a viable solution. Had the City had more time to strategize, the City could have worked to provide interim health services during remodeling. Extending public notice for hospitals and health facilities prior to downgrading, changing or closing, as AB 1014 (O'Donnell) proposes, would improve strategies to maintain access to health services for residents of Long Beach.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports AB 1014 (O'Donnell) and requests your signature on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia", with a horizontal line underneath.

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Tom Umberg, 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

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