



**MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA**  
CITY OF LONG BEACH

October 3, 2019

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

**RE: Support for AB 751 (O'Donnell) Pupil Assessments: Pathways to College Act**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), I write in support of Assembly Bill 751 (AB 751) (O'Donnell). This legislation would provide California school districts the opportunity to administer a college admissions test such as the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) to 11th grade students in lieu of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CASPP) free of charge.

Our Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) has been one of over 40 school districts to offer alternative college entrance exams, in addition to the CASPP, to 11th grade students. This practice is in line with the Long Beach College Promise, of which the City 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 on the rise.

Offering college admission exams free of charge and during the school day increases our students' chances for success in college. The ability for Long Beach's high school students to take these important college entrance exams at the safety and security of their own high school campuses during the traditional school day, as AB 751 proposes, gives students an environment to perform to the best of their ability. The City fully supports the ability for all school districts to offer these exams in lieu of the CASPP.

Given these reasons, the City supports AB 751 (O'Donnell) and requests your signature on this bill.

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Garcia  
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly  
The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33<sup>rd</sup> District  
The Honorable Tom Umberg, State Senate, 34<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35<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