



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

May 25, 2021

The Honorable Sydney Kamlager
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4062
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 118 (Kamlager)—Emergency Services: Community Response: Grant Program

Dear Senator Kamlager,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write to support Assembly Bill 118, the Community Response Initiative to Strengthen Emergency Systems (C.R.I.S.E.S.) Act. The C.R.I.S.E.S. Act proposes to establish a grant program to award community organizations that advance emergency response efforts for vulnerable populations, which is in alignment with the City's COVID-19 pandemic response efforts.

COVID-19 has underscored the disparities in public health and economic outcomes for vulnerable populations in Long Beach. The City has a long history of engaging with people experiencing homelessness and facing mental health crises through innovative partnerships with public health professionals and community-based organizations. During COVID-19, the City has assisted 226 people through Project Roomkey, housed over 100 individuals through Project Homekey, and established the City's first year-round homeless shelter. These programs fulfill a need for safe and supportive housing which contributes immensely to health and economic wellbeing. Providing resources for vulnerable populations, such as the C.R.I.S.E.S. Act proposes, is critical to progress through and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In March 2021, the Long Beach City Council unanimously approved the Long Beach Recovery Plan (Plan) with strategies to address economic and social challenges using funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The Plan will support partnerships with local community organizations to provide critical assistance and resources for Long Beach residents struggling during the pandemic. Community organizations will be pivotal to the City's implementation of the Plan, and AB 118 could help sustain and expand successful initiatives.

The City supports efforts to assist community programming, with a focus on vulnerable populations. Community organizations are an integral partner in these efforts, and the grant opportunities proposed by AB 118 offer valuable resources to expand emergency response for underserved communities. Given these reasons, the City supports AB 118.

Sincerely,

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