



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

March 10, 2021

The Honorable Miguel Santiago
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 6027
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 221 (Santiago)—Emergency Food Assistance

Dear Assemblymember Santiago,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write to support AB 221. This bill would provide disaster food assistance to reduce hunger during emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Food banks and immigrant-serving organizations would distribute funding to individuals and families who are low-income, with a focus on those ineligible for other sources of government assistance.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected low-income and undocumented community members in California, many of whom have faced job loss or illness and are ineligible for most state or federal social service benefits. Like most cities nationwide, the City has observed disparities in COVID-19 case rates between zip codes. The cases since March 2020 in the lowest income areas of Long Beach exceed 14,000 per 100,000 population, while the cases in one of the wealthiest areas remains below 6,000 per 100,000 population. Taking into consideration the social determinants of health, the City continues to address inequities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

No one should go hungry in California, especially during an emergency. The City supports legislation that funds healthy food access and ensures families have basic needs such as food. AB 221 would use proven practices to safely and efficiently distribute food to everyone who needs it, regardless of immigration status. Given these reasons, the City supports AB 221.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia".

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