



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

January 7, 2022

The Honorable Ash Kalra
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2196
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Alex Lee
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2170
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

RE: Support for AB 1400 (Kalra, Lee, and Santiago)—Guaranteed Health Care for All

Dear Assemblymembers Kalra, Lee, and Santiago:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write to support AB 1400, the California Guaranteed Health Care for All Act. This bill would create the CalCare program to provide comprehensive universal single-payer healthcare coverage for California residents. On March 23, 2021, the City Council unanimously supported legislative efforts at the federal level to expand Medicare for All.

Under our current healthcare system, nearly 3 million Californians remain uninsured, and even more residents are underinsured and cannot afford to pay rising health costs. Communities of color, low-income residents, and immigrants are disproportionately impacted by a lack of access to quality healthcare in California. The CalCare program seeks to transform the State's healthcare system by guaranteeing universal healthcare for all, regardless of employment, immigration status, disability, or other classifications.

The City supports legislation to expand access to health insurance coverage and comprehensive benefits for residents. As a local health jurisdiction, Long Beach experiences firsthand the importance of access to healthcare to address public health disparities. Roughly 8.5 percent of the Long Beach population do not have health insurance coverage, and the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing structural inequities that impact our most vulnerable and historically underserved communities.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports AB 1400.

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