



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

April 20, 2022

The Honorable Joaquin Arambula
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 6240
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 2680 (Arambula)—Community Health Navigators

Dear Assemblymember Arambula,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of AB 2680. This bill will advance health equity by ensuring vulnerable populations can enroll in, retain, and utilize healthcare coverage and by investing in community-driven approaches to increase outreach for Medi-Cal programs.

Medi-Cal serves approximately 13 million Californians and is expected to grow by another 1.6 million Californians in 2022. California is a leader in advancing equitable healthcare access through efforts to enroll people in Medi-Cal during the COVID-19 public health emergency and expand Medi-Cal to all Californians regardless of immigration status.

The Long Beach Health and Human Services Department builds on these State efforts to assist individuals in the Medi-Cal enrollment process. The City currently receives resources, training, and technical assistance to conduct outreach through the Medi-Cal Health Navigators program, which is set to expire on June 30, 2022. The expiration of this program will result in a critical gap in outreach services to vulnerable populations, further exacerbating disparities in healthcare access and utilization.

AB 2680 will provide valuable resources to continue the Health Navigators program, which helps to serve vulnerable populations across the State and remove obstacles to healthcare for low-income communities. The bill also provides training and technical assistance to Medi-Cal Health Navigators on eligibility and enrollment rules and ensures stronger coordination between the Department of Healthcare Services and Covered California.

For these reasons, the City supports AB 2680.

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