



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

April 12, 2022

The Honorable Thomas Umberg
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6730
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 34 (Umberg)—Libraries: Student Success Cards

Dear Senator Umberg,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write to support SB 34. This bill proposes to establish a grant program to provide public school students with student success library cards. As home to 12 library branches and the second-largest school district in California, the City recognizes the value of advancing student access to the Long Beach Public Library (LBPL).

The LBPL serves 1.2 million visitors annually, offering equitable access to literature, multimedia materials, internet, social services, and more. The LBPL partners with the Long Beach Unified School District to provide reading lists, visitations to encourage library card acquisition, and a hosted annual Summer Reading Club. During the COVID-19 pandemic, LBPL has expanded its digital library services, provided access to hundreds of skill-based courses, and launched LBPL Podcasts to highlight histories of Long Beach.

On March 16, 2021, the Long Beach City Council unanimously approved the Long Beach Recovery Plan (Recovery Plan), which outlines the City's funding priorities utilizing Federal, State and County relief funds. The Recovery Plan responsibly, effectively, and equitably allocates funding to address the myriad impacts of the pandemic, including \$300,000 to waive library fines for one year. Additional funding opportunities to increase equitable access to LBPL branches, such as SB 34 proposes, will benefit the City's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The City supports legislation that provides funding for library programs to increase the quality of life for Long Beach residents. SB 34 would improve the lives and cultivate the minds of students statewide with access to library success cards. Given these reasons, the City supports SB 34.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia", written over a light blue rectangular background.

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 Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District