



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

March 31, 2021

The Honorable Lena Gonzalez
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2068
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 452 (Gonzalez)—State Government: Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Agency

Dear Senator Gonzalez,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write to support SB 452, which will help address the needs of more than 10 million immigrants in California by creating a State Agency for Immigration and Refugee Affairs.

Long Beach prides itself on being one of the most diverse communities in the country, and the City is committed to fostering trust between City officials, residents, and visitors to protect local resources, encourage cooperation between public and City officials, and to ensure public safety for all. On March 13, 2018, the Long Beach City Council adopted the [Long Beach Values Act of 2018](#), which established procedures for requesting, collecting, maintaining, and disclosing sensitive information and the enforcement of federal immigration law. Furthermore, in December 2018, the City approved the development of a deportation defense fund to support legal representation for immigrants who live or work in Long Beach and are facing deportation. As of April 30, 2020, 37 clients benefitted from the fund, with 10 percent completing their court cases and 20 percent released from detention.

The establishment of an Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Agency to coordinate State immigration services, as proposed by SB 452, will provide a framework for more effective organization of services to support the City's immigrant community. SB 452 will help our immigrant and refugee communities access services by integrating resources in a State agency. The bill would additionally delineate the proposed agency's leadership, organized in a manner to help consolidate current programs serving immigrants. For these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports SB 452.

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 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