



# MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

March 13, 2024

The Honorable Sharon Quirk-Silva  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 4210  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for AB 1788 (Quirk-Silva)—Mental health multidisciplinary personnel team**

Dear Assemblymember Quirk-Silva,

I am writing on behalf of the City of Long Beach (City) to express support for AB 1788, which aims to expedite the identification, assessment, and linkage of justice-involved individuals diagnosed with a mental illness to housing and supportive services. The City supports regional initiatives that encourage mental health treatment programs, funding for substance use treatment, and homelessness intervention efforts instead of incarceration-only solutions.

AB 1788 would authorize counties to form mental health multidisciplinary personnel teams for justice-involved individuals diagnosed with mental illness, both during incarceration and post-release. Furthermore, the legislation would require the sharing of information among provider agencies to coordinate supportive services. Under this proposal, each county would develop protocols for the sharing of information and would require each county to provide a copy of its protocols to the State Department of Social Services. AB 1788 will contribute to improving the mental health treatment for justice-involved individuals.

The City's [2023 Point in Time Count Report](#) revealed that many people experiencing homelessness have underlying long-term trauma, mental health, and/or substance use concerns. According to the City's 2023 Point in Time Count, nearly 35 percent of survey respondents self-reported having a severe mental illness. These conditions impair cognitive functioning and challenge a person's ability to maintain health, wellness, housing, and employment. AB 1788 is in line with the City's commitment to reducing the number of people experiencing homelessness in Long Beach and implementing upstream homelessness prevention strategies.

For these reasons, the City supports AB 1788.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Richardson", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mayor Rex Richardson  
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33<sup>rd</sup> District  
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 65<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Josh Lowenthal, State Assembly, 69<sup>th</sup> District