



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

September 13, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 90 (Wiener)—Insulin Affordability Act

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I urge your signature on SB 90. This bill would prohibit a health plan contract or disability insurance policy that is issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2024, or a contract or policy offered in the individual or small group market on or after January 1, 2025, from imposing a copayment, deductible, coinsurance, deductible, or any other out-of-pocket expense on an insulin prescription drug that exceeds \$35 for a 30-day supply. SB 90 aligns with the City's objectives to support legislation that ensures access to affordable medical, dental, and mental health care.

Diabetes is among the top six causes of death in Long Beach. Furthermore, more than half of the patients hospitalized for COVID-19 have diabetes as an underlying health condition. According to the [Community Health Assessment](#), 9.7% of adults in Long Beach reported having been diagnosed with diabetes. The census tracts with the highest proportion of adults with diabetes are mostly in the western parts of the City, and the census tract with the highest percentage of adults with diabetes is towards the east, with 20.1% of adults reporting having been diagnosed. This population relies on daily doses of insulin for survival. Without access to insulin, patients are at risk for other serious health complications such as cardiovascular disease, blindness, kidney disease, and death.

SB 90 will protect patient health and safety by ensuring access to insulin for those who depend on it. This bill is a critical step forward toward building a healthier and brighter future for all. For these reasons, the City requests your signature on SB 90.

Sincerely,

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

Mayor Rex Richardson
City of Long Beach

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