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STANDING COMMITTEE
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CHAIR

SENATOR KEVIN DE LEÓN
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

March 13, 2018

Honorable Mayor and City Council
333 W Ocean Blvd,
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Support for Long Beach Values Act

Dear Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

I write in strong support of the City of Long Beach's efforts to pass the Long Beach Values Act and establish its own legal defense fund to support reuniting families facing deportations.

The City of Long Beach is one of the most diverse cities in the United States, including the largest population of Cambodian refugees outside of Cambodia, a thriving Samoan community and over 42% of its residents identifying as Latino. Many of these individuals are immigrants themselves or come from immigrant families who need your leadership in passing this resolution to ensure that Long Beach is a safe place for everyone.

The proposed "Long Beach Values Act" follows the progressive work of the California State Legislature and over 400 individual cities and counties across the nation in support of policies to support immigrants. Ensuring that local law enforcement agencies are not working with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Agents to unjustly target and deport hardworking residents is a critical piece of this policy. Additionally, the possibility of a defense fund to support the legal proceedings of people facing deportation ensures that every person has an opportunity to defend themselves to the best of their ability within the complicated legal system.

I look forward to your continued support of this important issue facing many Long Beach residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin de León".

Kevin de León
Senate President Pro Tempore
24th Senate District