



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN

November 16, 2009

Long Beach City Council
City Hall
333 West Ocean Blvd, 14th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: Proposed Equal Benefits Ordinance

Dear City Councilmembers:

As the president of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights organization, I write to you, on behalf of HRC's more than 2,600 members and supporters in Long Beach, in support of the proposed equal benefits ordinance you are considering.

Passing an equal benefits ordinance is an important step Long Beach can take to demonstrate its commitment to equality for all in the workplace. It's simply the right thing to do to require companies doing business with the city that provide benefits to employees' spouses to offer the same benefits to employees' domestic partners, given that same-sex couples are prohibited from marrying in most of the United States and receive no recognition under federal law. That's why the state of California and six cities and counties in California, including Los Angeles, Oakland, and San Francisco, have enacted similar ordinances.

I applaud Councilmembers Robert Garcia and Suja Lowenthal for their leadership in (respectively) sponsoring and co-sponsoring this proposed ordinance, and I hope that the Council will join them in taking an important step to promote fairness and equality.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Solmonese, President
Human Rights Campaign