



Date: October 24, 2006

To: Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Bonnie Lowenthal, Vice Mayor, Councilmember, 1st District *BL*
Suja Lowenthal, Councilmember, 2nd District *SL*
Gerrie Schipske, Councilmember, 5th District *GS*

Subject: **Extend health coverage to dependent children of registered domestic partners**

The City of Long Beach has a long history of supporting the pursuit of fair treatment for all residents. From codifying a broad definition of family and allowing for Domestic Partnership Registration, to the Council's recent resolution in support of same sex civil marriages, our City has made tremendous strides to protect the fundamental rights of all families.

Currently, 27 employees of the City of Long Beach have registered domestic partners that participate in the City's health insurance program. As an option for City employees, health insurance benefits can be extended to spouses, domestic partners, dependent children, and dependent family members. Children that become a part of an employee's immediate family through marriage are allowed coverage, but at this time children that become part of an employee's family through Domestic Partnership Registration are not.

An extension of health compensation and benefits to dependent children of registered domestic partners would help the City remain equitable and competitive.

Recommendation: Authorize the City Manager to sign amendments to contracts with the City's current health, dental and life insurers to extend coverage to dependent children of registered domestic partners on the same basis as any other eligible dependent child.