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September 3, 2019

The Honorable Robert Garcia  
Mayor of Long Beach  
333 West Ocean Blvd, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

The Honorable Dee Andrews  
Vice Mayor of Long Beach  
411 West Ocean Blvd, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

**RE: SCAN Health Plan Letter of Support for the Long Beach Office of Aging**

Dear Mayor Garcia and Vice Mayor Andrews,

On behalf of SCAN Health Plan (SCAN), we are asking you to support Long Beach residents by maintaining the Office of Aging's staff member for Fiscal Year 2020. As a large employer in Long Beach serving older adults, we know first-hand the importance of the Office of Aging to the community.

SCAN is a nonprofit health plan that serves seniors through Medicare Advantage (MA) plans which include institutional, chronic care, and dual eligible special needs plans (SNPs). Over 200,000 Medicare beneficiaries are enrolled in SCAN's MA plans in California, making us the third largest nonprofit Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug (MA-PD) plan in the country. Since 1985, SCAN has specialized in providing comprehensive, high quality care to the most vulnerable Medicare beneficiaries, including those who live with multiple chronic conditions, are eligible for nursing home care, and experience difficulty performing activities of daily living.

SCAN believes that City of Long Beach leaders must remain vigilant about the fact that not everyone has equal access to community resources. In terms of resource equity, one of the most vulnerable populations are older adults. Older adults face several unique conditions, such as isolation, loneliness, depression, as well as, economic and housing insecurity. To cut funding to such an integral part of the community is detrimental to all of us.

As the second most diverse city in the nation, our older adult population is a significant part of our community. Nearly 40 percent of the Long Beach's population are older adults and people age 50 and older. By 2025, this population is expected to increase by 22 percent. Furthermore, 52 percent of these individuals live alone and 38 percent live with a disability. Long Beach is already in critical need of housing, transportation, health, safety, and quality of life services for older adults.

These needs are highlighted in the current Long Beach Strategic Plan for Older Adults, a collaboration between the Department of Health and Human Services and the community. This

plan includes a gap analysis that maps the older adult's journey, recommending adoption of an age-friendly mindset, senior volunteerism, integration of social services, coordination of services, scalability of co-located services, and inclusion of vulnerable communities. This plan also discusses steps for addressing these needs and outlines existing opportunities.

The Office of Aging provides critical infrastructure for advancing the strategic plan, helping older adults remain independent, and offering support to caregivers. There is only one staff member providing services to this entire population and cutting this individual would be a mistake. Removing the position hurts the Long Beach community and especially the older adults who live here.

We encourage you to retain the Office of Aging staff member through one time funds so that older adults can continue receiving the resources they need.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Adrienne Morrell".

Adrienne Morrell  
Senior Vice President  
Public, Government, and Community Affairs