



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA

CITY OF LONG BEACH

March 4, 2021

Long Beach City Council
Federal Legislative Committee
411 W. Ocean Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: Federal Legislative Priorities

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to dual public health and economic crises. Funding from the federal government will be critical to recovery efforts in Long Beach. I respectfully request the Federal Legislation Committee review the following legislative proposals and recommend support to the full City Council.

American Rescue Plan

H.R. 1319 provides additional relief to address the continued impact of COVID-19 on the economy, public health, state and local governments, individuals, and businesses. Direct aid is needed for cities, counties and states that are on the front line of the pandemic. Long Beach has responded to this pandemic by expanding community wide COVID-19 testing and now vaccination opportunities, bolstered support for small businesses while suffering financial shortfalls from the recession and tremendous job losses. This legislation would provide important assistance for vaccine roll out, school re-openings, and small businesses in our city.

Equality Act

H.R. 5 and S. 393 would provide consistent and explicit non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ people across key areas of life, including employment, housing, credit, education, public spaces and services, federally funded programs and jury service. The City is a leader in advancing LGBTQ+ inclusion and consistently receives a perfect score on the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index. Long Beach views this legislation as critical to strengthen existing protections for everyone.

Immigration Reform

The Biden Administration has introduced a robust immigration bill to modernize legal pathways to citizenship for millions of immigrants and to protect Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients. This would be the first major immigration bill passed in decades, and the City's Federal Legislative Agenda supports comprehensive immigration reform that provide a dignified path to citizenship to strengthen the nation's workforce and economy. The Long Beach immigrant community is diverse and strong, and they deserve the opportunity to become American citizens. This legislation would help ensure that immigrants today get the same chance I did in the 1980s to remain in the United States with a pathway to citizenship.

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Voting Rights

H.R. 1 is a critical piece of legislation that is needed to ensure voting rights across the country. This legislation would expressly allow and expand early voting, lessen identification requirements that have been used to intimidate and restrict voting in some areas of the country, allow same-day registration and require states to set up automatic registration for federal elections for eligible voters. The 117th Congress must pick up work from the previous session and pass this Act.

Through these federal legislative actions, we have an opportunity to make meaningful change to solidify a strong future for our City and the country. I look forward to working with the City Council to ensure our support is known in Washington, D.C.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach