

California State Senate

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SENATOR LENA A. GONZALEZ

THIRTY-THIRD SENATE DISTRICT

SENATE MAJORITY WHIP

CHAIR, SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

December 7, 2021

City of Long Beach Mayor and City Council
411 W Ocean Blvd
Long Beach, California 90802

RE: Gender-Inclusive Language Policy

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council:

As the State Senator representing California's 33rd District, I write in support of Agenda Item 35, the Gender-Inclusive Language Policy. This policy would require future Municipal Code amendments to be drafted with inclusive language which will require the City of Long Beach to add inclusive language to Council Policies, regulatory legislation, and ballot proposals for City Charter amendments.

Senate Bill 272 — authored by State Senator John Laird (D–Santa Cruz) and signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom — immediately updated various California code sections to reflect gender-inclusive language. References to the CHP Commissioner, CALFIRE firefighters, insurance licensing, and California Conservation Corps members are now gender-neutral. Additionally, my colleagues in the State Assembly wrote Assembly Concurrent Resolution 260 to encourage the state to revise language for existing and future statutes with gender-neutral pronouns. Altogether, our state's legislative body has championed these efforts, encouraging cities across the state and nation to adopt similar policies promoting diversity and inclusion.

Transgender and non-binary people face stigma that starts at an early age and can last a lifetime. Often, these stigmas are rooted in false assumptions and result in politically motivated attacks to deny people equal opportunities. These stigmas have long-lasting impacts on the mental health of transgender and non-binary people, leading to economic and housing instability — especially when individuals experience familial rejection and isolation from their social support systems.

This policy will reinforce to all City of Long Beach residents that language matters. Embracing a gender-neutral language law would also show that the hard work of countless people has not been in vain, and we are building a more inclusive society. For these reasons, I support Long Beach City Council Agenda

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Item 35. Should you have any questions regarding my support please do not hesitate to contact my office at (562) 256-7921. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lena Gonzalez', with a large, stylized initial 'L'.

Lena Gonzalez
Senator, Senate District 33

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