



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

March 9, 2017

The Honorable Benjamin Hueso
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4035
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: SB 6 (Hueso) – Support Relating to Accessibility to Legal Counsel in Removal Proceedings

Dear Senator Hueso:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of Senate Bill 6. This bill seeks to ensure that Californians receive affordable and competent access to legal representation during immigration removal proceedings. Long Beach takes pride in being a leader in progressive values that protect families in our communities. As an example of our commitment, on February 7, 2017, the Long Beach City Council adopted a motion to support State legislation that would ensure local resources are not used to facilitate deportations or collect information about an individual's religious beliefs. The City's support of SB 6 is consistent with that motion.

SB 6 would institute a State-funded program that would provide access to qualified legal counsel to adult immigrants in deportation or removal proceedings at low to no cost. The likelihood of success in challenging a removal during proceedings increases five times when there is legal representation, but approximately 68% of persons facing deportation proceedings in California do not have the means to afford legal representation. Removal of these family members often leaves their children, many who are U.S. born citizens, in the foster-care system.

The City of Long Beach values the economic benefits that families with immigrant household members bring to California. According to the American Immigration Council, immigrant families are responsible for \$5.2 billion contributions in state income taxes and \$4.2 billion in sales taxes each year. The City considers our diversity to be part of our economic strength. Since 2012, businesses in downtown Long Beach have doubled and as of March 2016, the unemployment rate in Long Beach reached a nine-year low. The

City would like for our economic growth to remain steady and to see families stay together.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports SB 6.

Sincerely,



Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc:

The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Janet Nguyen, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District