



July 8, 2019

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The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 329 (Mitchell): Housing Opportunities Act
As Amended on May 17, 2019 – SUPPORT
Set for hearing in Assembly Appropriations Committee – July 10, 2019**

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) is pleased to support Senator Mitchell's Senate Bill 329, which would amend California's Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) to protect housing voucher holders from housing discrimination based on their source of income.

CSAC is committed to addressing the housing affordability crisis and is supportive of efforts to protect voucher holders from housing discrimination. According to the Legislative Analyst's Office, 400,000 low-income renter households in California receive vouchers, whereby the federal government makes payments to landlords on their behalf. Roughly 700,000 households are currently on waiting lists for housing vouchers. Unfortunately, experience has shown that voucher holders have a difficult time finding housing because landlords are often resistant to rent their housing units to them.

California law protects individuals from housing discrimination based on several factors, including an individual's source of income. However, current law does not specifically list housing vouchers as a protected source of income. SB 329 would amend FEHA to specify that source of income includes housing vouchers, in addition to other federal, state, and local public assistance or housing subsidies.

By ensuring that voucher holders are considered as potential tenants, SB 329 would bolster local government efforts by cities, counties and housing authorities to provide a full spectrum of housing opportunities to individuals who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness, or who may be clients of county-administered safety net programs. For these reasons, CSAC supports SB 329. If you need additional information about our position, please contact me at 916.650.8180 or clee@counties.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Chitzy'.

Christopher Lee
Legislative Representative

Cc: The Honorable Holly Mitchell, California State Senate
Honorable Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Jennifer Swenson, Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
William Weber, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus