



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

September 20, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 329 (Mitchell) Discrimination: Housing: Source of Income

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of Senate Bill 329 (Mitchell). SB 329 proposes to address access to affordable housing by amending the definition of “source of income” to include federal, state, or local public assistance and housing subsidies. Low-income families face constant barriers to finding safe and affordable housing, often which stem from the current definition of “source of income.”

The City supports affordable housing policies consistent with the City’s 2013-2021 Housing Element (Housing Element) adopted on January 7, 2014. One of the goals detailed in the Housing Element is to provide public assistance to bridge housing affordability gaps, especially for extremely-low and very-low-income households. The City’s Housing Authority currently receives funds from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide almost 7,000 Section 8 rental assistance vouchers to low-income individuals and families so that they can afford to rent decent, safe, and sanitary housing. SB 329 would increase the prospects for Section 8 recipients to obtain secure housing.

The City’s low housing vacancy rate and rising rental rates, combined with the fact that many landlords do not accept Section 8 vouchers, severely limits housing options for Section 8 renters. Requiring landlords to accept public assistance and housing subsidies as sources of income, as SB 329 (Mitchell) proposes, would make housing more accessible for low-income residents in California.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports SB 329 (Mitchell) and requests your signature on this bill.

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Tom Umberg, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O’Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District