



**MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA**  
CITY OF LONG BEACH

May 20, 2019

The Honorable Holly J. Mitchell  
California State Senate  
Capitol Office, Room 5050  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Senator Mitchell:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of Senate Bill 329 (Mitchell). Low-income families face constant barriers to finding safe and affordable housing, often which stem from the definition of "source of income." 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.

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 the 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 the City's 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 Long Beach.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports SB 329 (Mitchell).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia".

Mayor Robert Garcia  
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly  
The Honorable Tom Umberg, State Senate, 34th District  
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District  
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District