[Place on letterhead or include your address block]

[Insert Date]

The Honorable Gavin Newsom

Governor of California

1303 10th Street, Suite 1173

Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Request for Signature for SB 329 (Mitchell): Source of Income Protection**

Dear Governor Newsom:

[Insert your organization’s name] respectfully requests your signature on Senate Bill 329 (Mitchell).

[Include 1-2 sentences briefly describing your organization]

SB 329 will amend the Fair Employment and Housing Act to clarify that housing subsidies are a protected source of income. By doing so, this bill will provide all Californians with a full and fair opportunity to seek housing by ensuring that landlords cannot deny applicants simply because they receive rental assistance.

California is experiencing a rental crisis of historic proportions. High housing costs crowd out family spending on basic necessities, such as food and health care. A shortage of affordable housing also contributes to the state’s severe homelessness problem.

Federal, state, and local governments currently provide various forms of rental assistance to low-income residents. For example, over 300,000 families in California receive a federally-funded Housing Choice Voucher, commonly referred to as “Section 8,” to help make rent affordable. Unfortunately, because such vouchers are not considered a protected source of income under FEHA, landlords are free to refuse to consider voucher holders as tenants. Such blanket refusals, often based on misguided stereotypes, frustrates the central aim of rental assistance programs and increases the harm and severity of California’s housing crisis.

The District of Columbia and at least nine states—a diverse array including New Jersey, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Oregon—have taken a stand for housing opportunity by clarifying that housing subsidies are a protected source of income. It is time for California to join their ranks.

Sincerely,

[Insert Your Full Name]

[Insert Your Title]