



Housing Rights Center – Department of Outreach and Public Education, Los Angeles CA 90010

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Immediate Release

NEW CALIFORNIA TENANT PROTECTIONS: SB 329, SB 222, AB 1497

California -- October 14th, 2019 – On October 8th, 2019 Governor Newsom signed SB 329, SB 222, and AB 1497 into law. All bills will become effective starting January 1st, 2020. “These new state laws are essential to protecting tenants who have long faced discrimination due to negative stereotypes about Section 8 Voucher holders and Veterans,” states Chancela Al-Mansour, Executive Director of the Housing Rights Center.

SB 329, sponsored by Senator Holly Mitchell and **SB 222** adds Section 8/Housing Choice voucher holders or other rental subsidies to the persons protected under the Fair Employment and Housing Act.

SB 222, sponsored by Senator Jerry Hill adds Veterans and Military Status to the persons protected under the Fair Employment and Housing Act. Section 8/Housing Choice voucher holders and people with veterans and military status will be protected from a wide range of discriminatory housing practices including refusing to sell or rent housing, imposing different terms or conditions, harassment and making oral or written discriminatory statements, among other practices. Both SB 329 and SB 222 allow members of these groups who have been discriminated against in housing to file administrative complaints or lawsuits to enforce their rights.

AB 1497, sponsored by Assemblymember Chris Holden, will extend the types of housing covered by the Fair Employment and Housing Act to include housing posted on online hosting platforms like AirBnb. The bill will hold hosts accountable for discriminatory practices and protect people who rent housing through an online hosting platform from being discriminated against because of a protected class. Unlawful practices under this bill include (but are not limited to): refusing the opportunity to rent, charging higher rent and deposits. Those who have been harmed by discrimination in housing rented through an online hosting platform can file administrative complaints or lawsuits to enforce their rights.

If you believe that you have been discriminated against, contact the Housing Rights Center 1-800-477-5977 (voice) or 213-201-0867 (TTY). HRC is California’s largest nonprofit, civil-rights agency dedicated to promoting and securing fair housing. HRC investigates over 1,600 housing discrimination complaints annually and assists over 17,000 individuals with their housing-related concerns. Additional information is also available at www.housingrightscenter.org.

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The Housing Rights Center is a non-profit organization established in 1968 to actively support and promote equal opportunity and freedom of residence to all persons without regard to their race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, familial status, disability, marital status, ancestry, age, source of income, or other characteristics protected by law. The Center engages in activities – including outreach/education, investigation/testing and legal advocacy – to identify barriers to fair housing in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties and to help counteract and eliminate discriminatory housing practices. For more information, please visit www.housingrightscenter.org or call 1-800-477-5977 or 213-201-0867 (TTY).