

May 7, 2019

Via email to: Stephanie.Park@sen.ca.gov

The Honorable Toni Atkins
President pro tempore, California Senate
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support – SB 529 (Durazo)

Dear President pro tempore Atkins:

On behalf of _____, I write in support of SB 529 (Durazo), a bill that would provide crucial protections for vulnerable tenants.

[Insert description of your organization. If you are an individual, feel free to include the city where you live in California.]

Much as a labor union is key to winning fair treatment of workers, a tenant association is a crucial part of balancing power between landlord and tenants. SB 529 recognizes the right to form a tenant association and extends crucial protections to tenant association members. Specifically, the bill provides that any tenant who forms or joins a tenant association shall have the following rights:

- No eviction of the tenants in the tenant association except for cause
- A right to engage in rent strike – landlord must bargain in good faith about grievances and may not evict for nonpayment during the negotiation period
- Five times current penalties for retaliation or violation of this law

SB 529 is set for hearing at the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 13, 2019. We don't believe this bill will have a negative fiscal impact on the taxpayers, and may help resolve tenant grievances before court action is taken.

SB 529 is a priority bill for Senator Durazo. We request your support for SB 529 to ensure it passes the Senate Appropriations Committee and goes on for a vote on the Senate Floor. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Your name and organization, if any]

cc: Bethany.Renfree@sen.ca.gov; Dean@tenantstogether.org