

Interfaith Sign-on Letter in support of Senate Bill 321

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Instructions: To sign on, please fill out this form or send an email with your name, title, and city to lindsay@domesticemployers.org with “SB 321 Faith Letter” in the subject line. Thank you!

Dear Governor Newsom,

We address you as supporters of SB 321: The Health and Safety for All Workers Act, as religious and moral leaders, who represent the full spectrum of people of faith. What binds our separate faith paths together in a common goal is the fulfillment of Deuteronomy 16:20: “*Justice, justice shalt thou pursue so that we may live...*”

We believe all labor falls under the norms of justice because each worker has the same rights and dignity. Domestic workers, mostly women of color, have been excluded from workplace protections for centuries. This exclusion not only harms these vulnerable workers but weakens the conditions that allow everyone to flourish.

We entrust these workers with our homes, our children and often our parents in order that we may be free to work (and play) outside the home. The very least we should do is to treat them “justly so that they might safely live” as their employers live. We do that when we provide them with the same workplace protections that every other American worker enjoys.

We believe that most employers of domestic workers want to do the right thing. And we believe the state has an important role in partnering with domestic employers to advance the common good through just laws. We see SB 321 as an opportunity to promote the common good that has been harmed by the historical exclusion of domestic workers from basic labor protections that have included the Fair Labor Standards Act and the National Labor Relations Act and is maintained by California’s Occupational Health and Safety Administration exclusion.

During the last legislative session, you vetoed the legislation that would correct this exclusion because you felt that guaranteeing safety protections in our homes would be a burden to employers. Yet, domestic employers already must comply with other laws such as tax and worker’s compensation. And Cal/OSHA requires business employers to publicly post “Cal/OSHA workplace specific plans and protections” which are not “burdens” but more appropriately, obligations to provide the public and the employee with a safe and secure environment.

SB 321 does not create a burden. Rather it will offer domestic employers guidance on how to ensure their home is a safe workplace. This is a sacred obligation that every employer with a moral compass must fulfill and it provides a foundation for a mutually respectful relationship between employer and worker.

The US Constitution guarantees “life” for **every** person. Deuteronomy and the Holy Writings of every faith declare that “life” is jeopardized when there is no justice. There is no justice when workers in the most vulnerable societal position are not protected from harm.

Please reconsider your position and support and sign SB 321 and make California’s laws more just.

Most sincerely,

1. Rev. Dr. John A Buehrens, Past President Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, San Francisco
2. Rabbi Jim Kaufman, Temple Beth Hillel, Interfaith Solidarity Network, San Fernando Valley
3. Rev Michael Kennedy SJ, Ex. Director of Jesuit Restorative Justice Justice (JRJI)
4. Reverend Father Marinello Saguin, Pastor, Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, Encino CA.
5. Shaykh Suhail Mulla, Resident Scholar, Islamic Society of the West Valley
6. Reverend Deborah Lee, Executive Director, Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity
7. Reverend Ranwa Hammamy, Unitarian Universalist State Social Justice Ministry
8. Reverend Millie Philips, Unitarian Universalist minister
9. Reverend Rowan Fairgrove, EPs, San Jose, National Interfaith Representative for the Covenant of the Goddess
10. Stephen Privett, SJ, President, Verbum Dei High School, Los Angeles
11. Rabbi Stephen Cohen, Congregation B'nai B'rith, Santa Barbara, CA
12. Madeleine Levin, Tikkun Olam Chair, Or Shalom Jewish Community
13. Rabbi Dr Sophia Katherine Meghan Woodley Von Rothschild, Lecturer, President of the ASEAS
14. Rabbi Sarah Hronsky, Temple Beth Hillel, Valley Village, CA
15. Rev. Megan Visser, Unitarian Universalists of Santa Clarita Valley, Los Angeles, CA
16. Regina Q. Banks, Director, Lutheran Office of Public Policy- California
17. Rev. Vanessa Southern, Senior Minister, First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco
18. Rev. James Ishmael Ford, Empty Moon Zen & the First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles

19. Rev. Jitsujo T Gauthier, Soto Zen Buddhist Priest
20. Rabbi Keara Stein, Temple Beth Hillel, Valley Village, CA
21. Rev. Tim Kutzmark, Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno
22. Rev. Hozan Alan Senauke, Abbot, Berkeley Zen Center
23. Rev. Michael Yoshii, Co-Chair, Friends of Wadi Foquin
24. Rabbi Paul Kipnes, Calabasas, CA
25. Julia Wackenheim, Social Action Chair of Women of Temple Beth Hillel, Los Angeles
26. Rabbi Nancy Wechsler, Congregation Beth Shalom, Carmichael
27. Judy Stehr, President of Temple Ahavat Shalom, Northridge
28. Rich Procida, Bible Study for Progressives
29. Rabbi Amy Eilberg, Multifaith Voices for Peace and Justice, Palo Alto
30. Rabbi Faith Joy Dantowitz, Cupertino
31. Rev. Jane Gould, St. Luke's/ San Lucas Episcopal Church, Long Beach
32. Richard Wade, President Emeritus, Santa Clarita Atheists and Freethinkers, Santa Clarita
33. Craig Repp, Chair, IUCC Advocates for Peace & Justice, IUCC, Irvine
34. Joanna Lawrence Shenk, Reverend, First Mennonite Church San Francisco, San Francisco
35. Richard Smith, Father, Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist, San Francisco
36. Wendy Chisholm, Pastor, Authentic Church, San Francisco
37. Adam Erickson, Executive Director, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Northern California, Ben Lomond
38. Barbara Stevenson, St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, San Francisco
39. Patricia Plude, doctor, First Mennonite Church of San Francisco, San Francisco
40. Ian Schiffer, Community Weaver, Nefesh, Los Angeles
41. Rob Kutner, Shtibl Minyan (Jewish), LOS ANGELES
42. Mary Stancavage, Meditation Coalition, Burbank
43. Suzanne Singer, Rabbi, Temple Beth El, Riverside
44. Jackie Autry, Elder, St John's Presbyterian Church, San Francisco

45. Floyd Glen-Lambert, President, Jewish Labor Committee Western Region, Los Angeles
46. Robin Podolsky, Rabbi, Bend the Arc, Los Angeles
47. Micah Hyman, Rabbi, Bend The Arc, San Luis Obispo
48. Dev Noily, Rabbi, Kehilla Community Synagogue, Piedmont
49. Miriam Casey & Lynn Zender, Co-Chairs of the Commission for Intercultural Ministries, Episcopal Diocese of Northern California, Santa Rosa
50. Sarah Weissman, Rabbi, Congregation Beth Am, Los Altos Hills
51. Grace Penny Nixon, Rev. Dr. (Senior Minister), Congregational Church of San Mateo, San Mateo
52. Marlyn Bussey, Rev. Dr., St. James AME Zion Church, Peninsula Solidarity Cohort, San Mateo
53. Kristi Denham, Rev., First Church of Redwood City, UCC, Redwood City
54. Joan Marie ODonnell, Sister of Mercy, Sisters of Mercy, Burlingame
55. Msgr John Talesfore, Pastor, Saint Matthew Catholic Church, San Mateo
56. Diane Fahrner, Co-president of the Peninsula Multifaith Coalition, Mercy Center, Burlingame
57. Marvin Goodman, Rabbi, Peninsula Sinai Congregation, Foster City
58. Rev. Jim Mitulski, pastor, Island United Church UCC, Foster City
59. William Moses Summerville, Rev., Kingdom Come Community Church, Gardena
60. Moshe Heyn, Rabbi, Coastside Jewish Community, Half Moon Bay
61. Linda Buccheim, Alameda
62. Jerry McBride, Convener, San Mateo Quaker Worship Group, San Mateo
63. Andrea Howard-Washington, Reverend, Trinity Baptist Church, San Mateo
64. Nichola Torbett, Lay Leader, First Congregational Church of Oakland Prophetic Public Witness Team, Oakland
65. Barbara Baran and Claire Lipschultz, State Policy Advocates, National Council of Jewish Women-California, San Francisco
66. Cynthia Tuell, Retired Lecturer, University of California, Riverside, United Methodist Church, Riverside
67. Elizabeth Bar-El, President, Institute of Jewish Education, Los Angeles

68. John Pulvino, Chair of Justice and Peace Ministry St. Cyprian Catholic Church, Justice and Peace Ministry St. Cyprian Catholic Church, Sunnyvale
69. Joyce Swaving, Saint George Episcopal Church, Laguna Hills
70. Karen Wade, Reverend, Community of Christ, Orange
71. Lenore Dowling, Chair, IHM Commission on justice for Immigrants and Refugees, Immaculate Heart Community, Los Angeles
72. Marleen Gillespie, Irvine United Congregational Church and the IUCC Advocates for Peace and Justice, Irvine
73. Michael Soto, Moderator, Neighborhood Congregational Church Laguna Beach, Laguna Beach
74. Pastor Janette Jara, Pastor, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Newport Beach
75. Rev James Ishmael Ford, Empty Moon Zen & the First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles, Soto Zen Buddhist priest & Unitarian Universalist Minister, Los Angeles
76. Rev. Walter Contreras, Vice President, NaLEC. National Latino Evangelical Coalition, Concord
77. Rev. Bill Freeman, Pastor, United Church of Christ, Los Angeles
78. Rev. David K. Farley, Echo Park United Methodist Church, Los Angeles
79. Rev. Hozan Alan Senauke, Abbot, Berkeley Zen Center, Berkeley
80. Rev. Jerald Stinson, Senior Minister Emeritus, First Congregational Church of Long Beach (UCC), Long Beach
81. Rev. Scott Clark, Reverend, Presbyterian Church of San Anselmo, San Anselmo
82. Rev. Tim Kutzmark, Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno, Fresno
83. Rev. Vanessa Southern, Senior Minister, First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco, San Francisco
84. Roberto Vazquez, Deacon, St. John Chrysostom Church, Inglewood
85. Diane Smith, sister, Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondele, Los Angeles
86. Kay Higuera Smith, Doctor, Azusa Pacific University, Azusa
87. Rabbi Stephen J. Einstein, Rabbi (Emeritus), Congregation B'nai Tzedek, Fountain Valley
88. Joan Harper, St. Bede the Venerable, La Canada
89. Kathy Barron, Unity of Orange County, Laguna Hills

90. Andrew Moss, Member, Temple Isaiah, Los Angeles
91. Reverend Jennifer Gutierrez, Museum of Social Justice, Los Angeles
92. Joanne Leslie, Deacon, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Los Angeles
93. Neil Comess-Daniels, Rabbi Emeritus, Beth Shir Shalom, Santa Monica
94. Rev. Sandie Richards, Los Altos United Methodist Church, Los Altos
95. Rev. Kate Cadigan, St. Augustine by-the-Sea, Santa Monica
96. Rev. Jitsujo T Gauthier, Zen Center of Los Angeles, Los Angeles
97. Sister Carol Simone, Executive Director of NETWORK
98. Sister Sally Koch, Director of Communications, Sisters of the Saint Joseph of Carondelet
99. Reverend Dr. Glenda Hope, San Francisco Network Ministries, San Francisco
100. Rev. Dr. Roger Jones, Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento
101. Rabbi Allan Berkowitz, Faith in Action East Bay, San Jose
102. Rev. Jorge Luis Garcia, Obispo Presidente, Iglesia Anglicana Latinoamericana
103. Reverend Morgan McLean, UU Church of Davis California
104. Rev. Laura Eberly, Santiago St. James Episcopal Church