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## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 1, 1980

Mr. William J. Yoshino  
Japanese American Citizens League  
5415 North Clark Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60640

Dear Mr. Yoshino:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning S. 506, the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1979. I appreciate your taking the time to share your views with me on this very important amendment to the Civil Rights Act of 1968.

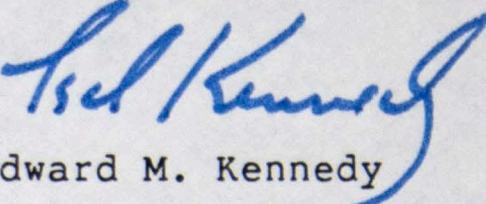
Although the Fair Housing provisions of the Civil Rights Act made it unlawful to discriminate in the sale, rental or financing of residential property on the basis of race, color or religion, there still exists discriminatory housing practices in many communities across the country.

S. 506 will provide the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) with the enforcement authority necessary to make the Fair Housing laws more effective and meaningful in eliminating discrimination. Existing law will be amended to provide HUD broader authority to investigate charges of discrimination, to hold hearings, to subpoena witnesses and documents, and make binding orders such as cease and desist authority (which already exists for several other federal agencies). The bill preserves and strengthens an aggrieved person's ability to maintain lawsuits in either state or federal court. With administrative and court enforcement avenues both available, the victims of discrimination will be able to obtain more expeditious and equitable relief. HUD will also be able to refer individual cases to the Attorney General so that persons financially unable to maintain legal proceedings may have the benefit of representation by government attorneys.

The same protection extended to other citizens would also apply under S. 506 to handicapped and disabled persons to end their isolation and to prevent the discrimination often experienced by them.

As you may know, the Senate Judiciary Committee has reported fair housing legislation. Your comments regarding this bill are appreciated and will continue to be helpful during future deliberations on the bill. With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Edward M. Kennedy