

Submitter: Sara Young
On Behalf Of: Those we serve
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure: SB1530

Dear representatives, My name is Sara Young, and I serve previously justice involved individuals with case management and employment services after release. I work in Portland, Oregon and I want to express my support for a yes vote on Senate Bill 1530, there are many important areas SB1530 support, and one of the most needed is inclusion of funding for furniture bank services.

We utilize Community Warehouse for peers, and have seen first hand the positive impact of safe housing, including furniture and other needs providing a home for transition into housing stability. Having housing has shown to support recovery, and reduce recidivism. Furnished homes contribute to the safe, physical, mental well-being of residents, fostering an environment conducive to recovery and growth. Studies indicate that individuals receiving furniture are more likely to maintain stable housing over time. Furniture banks provide an affordable, equitable, and sustainable solution to furniture poverty. Housing should not be viewed merely as the provision of four walls and a roof, but as the establishment of a home – a space that supports the well-being and dignity of its occupants. Furniture and household items, as a fundamental element of any home, play a crucial role in this ecosystem.

When we fund housing, we must include the means to furnish those homes. We urge you to support the inclusion of furniture bank services as an integral part of Senate Bill 1530. The incorporation of furniture bank services will address a critical need within our communities, contributing significantly to creating stable, sustainable, and thriving living environments for all Oregonians. I appreciate the commitment of the Senate to finding and funding holistic solutions to our state's housing challenges. Thank you for your consideration.