



Furniture Share, Helping Families in Crisis

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February 13, 2024

Good afternoon Chairman Jama and Committee,

My name is Michelle Robinson, and I am the Executive Director of Furniture Share. I am here today in support of Senate Bill 1530 section 5. Furniture Share has been serving our neighbors in need within Linn, Benton, Lincoln, Marion, and Lane Counties with furniture and household items for 26 years.

You might be thinking to yourself, what in the world is Furniture Share? What is furniture poverty? You've likely heard of a food bank. Our mission is similar, except we focus on home furnishings. We connect these items to neighbors in need, creating stronger homes and brighter futures. Annually, we serve 4,200 individuals with furniture and household items and provide more than 1,600 beds for kids. In the last 10 years, our services have increased by 600%.

The need being addressed is furniture poverty within our vulnerable and underserved populations. We work closely with more than 240 referring agencies who refer their clients to our programs. Furniture Share is dedicated to serving all clients referred, with clean quality furniture and household items to ensure our client outreach is serving a population as inclusive, equitable, and diverse as the communities we support.

The people we serve are members of your community. Some are leaving hostile situations, aging out of foster care, and/or recovering from illness and addiction. Many have children requesting basic needs such as a dining table, a dresser, and especially a bed.

Can you imagine a child sleeping on the floor . . . a family with no dinner table to share a meal? Thankfully, most of us cannot. Yet every year in our community many are forced to live without even the most essential household furnishings because after paying for rent and food, they have no money to buy the basic furniture that many of us take for granted -- the furnishings that make a house a home. Furniture Share provides basic household furnishings, enabling them to rebuild their lives with dignity. With your support of Senate Bill 1530 Section 5 together we can Furnish Futures, One Home at a Time.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Respectfully,

Michelle Robinson

Michelle Robinson, Executive Director
Furniture Share
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