

February 2, 2024

Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

*Subject: Urgent Support for Furniture Bank Services in Senate Bill #1530*

To the Senate Committee on Housing and Development,

We, the undersigned agencies, express our wholehearted support for a yes vote on Senate Bill 1530, with the inclusion of funding for furniture bank services. As representatives of organizations deeply committed to addressing housing stability in all communities around Oregon, we strongly believe in recognizing the integral role of furniture in housing.

Our collective experience working with our neighbors facing homelessness and housing insecurity has highlighted a critical but often overlooked component of stable housing – the availability of essential furnishings. **We commend the legislature's focus on housing issues and believe that incorporating furniture bank services into the proposed bill is a vital step towards comprehensive housing solutions.**

The demand for furniture bank services has substantially increased in recent years, mirroring the escalating challenges associated with affordable housing and homelessness. **Individuals and families transitioning from homelessness and other adverse situations often lack the means to adequately furnish their homes**, hindering their ability to establish a comfortable and dignified living space. Furniture bank services are notably omitted from nearly all public housing funding, leaving housing agencies and their participants without the resources needed to furnish empty apartments.

**Research consistently demonstrates the positive impact of furniture on housing stability.** Furnished homes contribute to the physical and 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 into the legislative framework will not only address a critical need within our communities, but also contribute significantly to creating stable, sustainable, and thriving living environments for all Oregonians.

We appreciate the commitment of the Senate to finding and funding holistic solutions to our state's housing challenges. **Together, let us build a future where every individual and family has not only a space to live, but a home to thrive.**

Sincerely,

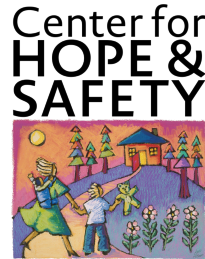
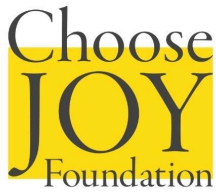


*Referring Partner Agencies:*



Catholic Community Services







Outside In



PDX HOUSING SOLIDARITY PROJECT

