

Submitter: Joan Corcoran
On Behalf Of: Community Warehouse
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure: SB1530

I have supported Community Warehouse since its inception. I donate furniture and household items, as well as give funds to help their mission and facilitate growth of their much needed services. I have told family and friends about the opportunity to contribute, and they have become involved. They spread the word to more people. Little by little, the warehouse has grown, and it continues to make a significant difference in the lives of so many that have struggled to make a home for their children, or to settle into a secure life pattern as an individual. But as the testimony in front of the committee revealed, so many more members of our communities would benefit if the funds were available to increase the infrastructure and the staffing necessary to make this happen.

Over the years, I have heard the testimony of individuals that share their stories after receiving furniture and items we all likely take for granted in our homes. Each story of appreciation and relief and determination and growth and joy in the lives of the people, who work so hard and want so much to be positive contributors to our collective futures as a community, fills me with a determination to do more. With the passage of this bill, a monumental game changer would occur for the three currently established furniture banks. And I can't help but think other communities would be encouraged to step up and attempt to start a furniture bank in their unserved town or county.

I am one who believes we have the ability to face and solve any problem set before us. But we must have the will. The donations that continue to flow to Community Warehouse demonstrate our will. When it takes a political act to make the difference, that's where you come in. You represent us. We need your vote in favor of SB1530 to allow our will and our commitment that everyone should live in security and comfort in a home to be fulfilled. We need your vote in favor of SB1530 for our communities and counties and state to flourish.