

Submitter: Candace Hill

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB1530

Dear Friends,

I am happy to recommend the Community Warehouse in Portland as a good example for budgeting funds to support furniture banks. I am a volunteer at the Community Warehouse and I work one-on-one with clients who are choosing furniture and housewares for their new homes. We help them to pick out sheets, blankets and towels, and the clients are happy to have them, but they are thrilled with a new bed pillow. We help with dishes, glasses, and silverware, but it's a joy to see those clients who love to cook picking out just the right pots and baking dishes. The clients are so happy to receive a pie plate, a cake pan, and new measuring cups and spoons. These are people who are ready to start anew, in new homes, to sleep on a fresh pillow, to cook and bake for themselves. You can see in their faces not only relief and gratitude, but also hope and resolve.

Many of the items we give away are donated, and sometimes there are funds available to buy new housewares, but there are days when we get down to the last set of silverware, the last few washclothes, the very last mattress. The staff can use donated funds to go out and buy these, but the need never stops. Having a secure budget for purchasing beds and pillows allows for the furnishing of a home for every client that comes in the door.

Many thanks for your consideration of spending taxpayer funds in this way.

Candace Hill