

Submitter: Riz Norton

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB1530

To whom it may concern,

I have been a case manager at Cascadiahealth for the past 5 years. I primarily try to help clients who are at risk of, or experiencing homelessness. Occasionally when things do come together, I have the privilege of taking my client's to Community Warehouse, which I've done at least 30 times now. Bar none, this is my favorite aspect of my job.

I cannot begin to tell you how sweet a thing it is to assist a family who have lived in a car, finally pick out a mattress for themselves and their kids. It is so rare a thing to be able to actually achieve helping someone with something tangible when they need it. Having housing is essential for people, but so often we forget that it's what's inside the home that matters too. And not just the furnishing, but Community Warehouse delivers these things to my client's as well. When assisting client's who are experiencing extreme poverty, having a furniture bank that also delivers is akin to an oasis in a desert. I believe Community Warehouse to be among the most essential and well managed organizations that I've had the opportunity to work with and I would do whatever it takes to not only keep this organization afloat, but to see it thrive and grow.

They take lovingly used items from well-meaning people, and in turn they provide those items to people who are getting on their feet. Just go to one of their locations and you'll feel it, there is a feeling of hope that is further reinforced by the staff members who treat every single client like an individual, and to the volunteers who show up, smile, and genuinely care about what they do.

This is why I support the inclusion of furniture bank services as an integral part of Senate Bill 1530.