

Submitter: Rosalind Babener
On Behalf Of: Community Warehouse
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure: SB1530

To Committee on Housing and Development

I have been part of the growth of Community Warehouse as we morphed from an agency that focused on assisting refugees coming from the former Soviet Union to assisting low income individuals and families assisted by local social service agencies. Today Community Warehouse is available to support 60 families every week and is the only full service option in the Portland metro area. Many times I have met families as they enter the warehouse telling how they have housing but are sleeping on the floor. The change that a bed, a kitchen table and cookware makes especially in the life of a family - a good nights sleep, the ability to cook your own food, a place to study with light in the evening - these gifts are taken for granted by so many of us.

The growth of Community Warehouse has so many benefits for our community - furniture and household items for low income families who can save their dollars for food and other necessities, an opportunity for volunteering, reuse so less landfill, and a way for social service agencies to get help for their clients without having to hire a truck and go from thrift store to thrift store looking for items to buy.

It is a win win and a real impactful use of our tax dollars.

thank you