

Submitter: Sherri Sacconaghi
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure: SB548

To Whom It May Concern, I am writing in support of SB 548, banning the use of trash bags for children in the Oregon Foster Care System. I first became aware of the use of garbage bags as a form of luggage when I began volunteering with Project Never Again two years ago. As a former Treatment Counselor for emotionally disturbed youth at The Christ School, I am aware of the emotional and physical toll a child undergoes as they try to navigate the uncertainty of their tenuous and transitional living situations. In most cases their personal possessions; clothes, a stuffed animal, a framed picture is all they have for comfort and support. A child's personal belongings are their sense of safety. What didn't occur to me until my work with Project Never Again, is the added shame of having to carry all that is important to them from home to home in a garbage bag, as if all they own is trash, as if the kids themselves are not worthy of more.. The realization of this practice has urged me join with Project Never Again, not just in continuing to support their cause of getting duffles to kids in the Oregon Foster Care System but to be an advocate for permanent change. I can only imagine the challenges that face those who work in the foster care system, and I am grateful for the compassionate individuals who give their time and heart to helping these kids. This is a systematic issue. I have to believe this change, irradicating garbage bags as luggage is a change that can and must happen. A change that will make a positive impact in the life of a child.

I appreciate your time and consideration of this Senate Bill.

Sincerely,

Sherri Sacconaghi , Project Never Again Volunteer and Donor/Youth Advocate