

Submitter: Bob Richard

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure: SB548

To the Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature,  
In support of SB 548

There is a lot of good in this world and in Oregon specifically. I could say that about every part of the world, not just Oregon. Things are sometimes wondrous! There is also brokenness. Too often. Too deep. Often inflicted on the innocent rather on those causing the hurt. Such things are in the news, also in our lives and the lives of people nearby. I especially hurt for the innocent; for the children who hurt. As for the cause of the hurt? Not their fault. So governmental bodies have created systems to deal with those who inflict hurt, and to help those receiving the bluntness of somebody else's actions or negligence. One of those systems, a structured foster care of children, began in the United States 170 years ago. Over time state and federal standards and home inspections and intervention came into existence, seemingly out of need to protect the innocent from those providing substandard foster care, or even greed in some cases. The topic of needing to improve the standard of care still exists all these years later. Sometimes the dynamics of parental care (or lack thereof), or even poor foster care, causes children to be shuffled . . . from one place to another, and perhaps to another. What is likely to happen in the shuffling of children? No surprise, we all know it is then time to put their belongings in a box or perhaps a black plastic bag that is otherwise used for garbage. Surely that small but wrenching aspect of moving children can be improved. This is a small but devastating detail in a foster child's life. It seems to me that the governmental bodies that create and manage the system as we know it, with all of the positives inherent in people who are caring overseers, can come to a simple simple simple requirement . . . treat the

innocent

with respect and dignity. No more used cardboard boxes. No more plastic garbage bags. This is possible through your favorable consideration of Senate Bill 548.

My name is Bob Richardson. I am a parent, a grandparent, a longtime Oregonian and an

advocate for those who hurt. SB 548 seeks to remedy a hurt. Thank you for giving this bill your

favorable consideration and, hopefully, passage into law.

Regards,

Bob Richardson