

Submitter: Bethany Hurd

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure: SB548

I support SB548 because it is unacceptable for children transitioning through the foster care system to receive a trash bag to carry their belongings. Handing a child a trash bag can leave permanent trauma during an already extremely hard time in their life.

I had the opportunity to speak to 5 woman who were formally in foster care during a roundtable discussion. It was extremely emotional and heartbreaking to hear the lasting impact that trash bags had on them and other people who spent time in the foster care system. Trash bags should only be used for garbage. A child should feel loved and cared for during such a difficult situation, and that is helped by giving a child some form of luggage or baggage to carry their belongings, the same way someone on vacation would do. I urge whoever has the ability to change this situation to please do so, as it will help to produce less trauma to a child already experiencing suffering due to a situation that is completely out of their control.

Thank you for your time.