

Submitter: Bryan Oakley

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure: SB548

I have worked with at risk youth in California, Oregon, and Washington for 15+ years and i can say without a doubt that the simple dignity we afford kids by not packing their belongings in the same container as we use to bag our discarded waste and trash, i.e. trash bags, is so, so important to these children's self-image. I have heard from countless children and social works about how bagging up personal belongings in trash bags is demeaning, degrading, and it devalues the child by showing through example they are trash, their possessions and the things they hold dear are trash, and that the state views them similar to how it views trash...bag it up and move it along to the next stop for next person to deal with. Providing a duffel or other appropriately designed container for personal belongings as opposed to using a container designed to hold trash like a trash bag is so simple but is so meaningful to kids to show them, they are of equal value to rest of us. And for a foster youth who may have been rejected by mom, dad, or their entire family this simple gesture is so impactful...Duffel bags and respect for all!!! :)