



Disability
Rights
Oregon

TO: Senate Human Services Committee
FROM: Emily Cooper
DATE: February 14, 2025
RE: SB 1016 DRO Support

Dear Chair Gelser-Blouin, Vice Chair Linthicum, and members of the Senate Committee

Disability Rights Oregon (DRO) submits this testimony in support of Senate Bill 1016 prohibiting Oregon's child welfare system from using trash bags to carry the personal items of foster youth.

Disability Rights Oregon filed a class action lawsuit in 2019 due to our concerns regarding the rights of foster youth including those who are bounced around the system often either losing precious belongings or having those items placed in trashbags during transport. A young woman reported that placing her things in a trashbag made her feel like trash too – something easily discarded and worthless.

Within Oregon's foster care system, youth often have a hard time finding the right place with the right services. SB 1016 gives these youth a modicum of dignity by ensuring that you have appropriate luggage carriers during their moves.



Disability Rights Oregon (DRO). For more than 40 years, we have served as Oregon's federally authorized and funded Protection & Advocacy System. DRO is committed to ensuring the civil rights of all people are protected and enforced. In recent years, DRO has settled [a class action lawsuit](#) regarding the Department of Human Services failure to provide appropriate services to foster youth with disabilities.

If you have any questions regarding DRO's position on this legislation, please call Ben Gurewitz at 971-806-7908 or email him at bgurewitz@droregon.org.

511 SW 10th Avenue, Suite 200 / Portland, OR 97205
Voice: 503-243-2081 or 1-800-452-1694 / Fax: 503-243-1738 / www.droregon.org
Disability Rights Oregon is the Protection and Advocacy System for Oregon