

Submitter: Meghan Newton

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure: SB548

My name is Meghan Newton and I am writing in support of Oregon Senate Bill 548. I think foster children are some of the most vulnerable members of our community and deserve our support and respect by preventing the use of trash bags in Oregon's foster care.

I am an adoptive parent of foster children, 20+ years ago. When I was given my children's belongings, they were thrown into garbage bags and loaded into my car. My children were very small when this happened and do not remember it, but I do. I was embarrassed for them. Shocked that all of their worldly possessions were placed in something that represented trash. The trauma that had brought them to the place where they had no one to belong to also took their ability to keep items that hold memories and basic needs. This needs to change. The simple act of preventing the use of trash bags to transport a foster child's belongings, shows respect and dignity that will only help a foster child's self-esteem grow in future years. Life is hard enough.

I choose to be a voice for children in foster care because many can't speak or don't know that they can. My personal experience with my own children and others has shown me how important the acts of dignity and respect are to foster children. Respect can change their entire trajectory.

Thank you for your time and consideration of Oregon Senate Bill 548.