

Submitter: Macy Bretz

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure: SB548

Hello, My name is Macy Bretz, I am 22 years old, and reside in Yamhill county and I am in support of SB548. I don't think words will ever be able to explain or express the amount of trauma, mental health issues, and effects that come from having to pack everything you have in a flimsy little trash bag, A bag that can rip so easy that you have to make decisions on what you can and can't take with you so that you can make sure that your bag stays together. ODHS gives you a garbage bag to carry all your stuff like they're telling you everything you own is garbage, that you are garbage, that you are seen as nothing more than disposable and then you have to go to school in clothes that smell like garbage bags and all the regular kids know you're a foster kid and all the kids at schools actions and words just prove just how true ODHS message really is. There's no words to explain the effects this has on a kid in care no matter their age. I speak for those who don't have a voice, for those who took their life due to the effects that this message has had on their mental health, the ones who are still in care and can't come forward due to the fear that a worker will hear their story and retaliate, for those whose voice has been drowned out, I speak for all the kids in care who need their voice heard.

Macy Bretz

Former Foster Youth/ Advocate