

Submitter: Linda Martensen
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure: SB548

Hello, my name is Linda; and I am a native Oregonian who 100% supports SB548. As a former foster child myself, it angers me that we are even at this point where a bill must be brought forward for ODHS to wake up and realize the effects of using trash bags for children in foster care. Just imagine being uprooted from the only family and life you know with no understanding of what's happening. And then, seeing your belongings placed into a trash bag adds to the overwhelming and lifelong emotions we are forced to deal with. As a former foster child, I didn't make the choice to be separated from my family. It was made for me. Yet as I/we grow, we are the ones left to deal with the emotional baggage that your decision made. Growing up feeling like we are not worthy or damaged is just the tip of the iceberg of deep seeded emotions we carry. What you may think of as a quick fix, using a trash bag for a young child is a constant reminder that we are disposable too.

Linda Martensen
Former Foster Youth/Volunteer/Advocate