

Submitter: Bryan Alford

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure: SB548

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Bryan Alford. I am a fourth grade teacher in the Beaverton School District. I

am writing in support of SB548. As a teacher of 26 years, I have had experience with thousands of students – some of whom are in foster care. A sad truth is that students and I have said, “See you tomorrow,” at the end of a school day only to find the next day

that the student is gone and won't be coming back. Those of us in the business of relationships fall in love with students from all walks of life, including and especially those born into difficult or impossible circumstances. It's like driving salt into a wound when a child in foster care is uprooted without warning, losing all in which they have become familiar and comfortable with and separated forever from meaningful people in

their lives only to be treated as rubbish. It is a gut punch to morality. To be provided a trash bag for one's only possessions is a not-so subtle way to say, “You are expendable.” If Oregonians knew that this is how the State has historically treated foster

kids, I think there would be an outcry. In all my years of teaching, I wasn't aware of this

practice until I saw Ms. Steffany's interview televised at halftime of a Trailblazers game.

As a taxpayer this is a no-brainer. “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” We must give respect before we expect it in return. It costs society nothing to make others feel worthy. It costs us dearly when children lose all hope.

Thank you for your time and your dedication to the passing of SB548.

Bryan Alford

Fourth Grade Teacher, Beaverton School District

Volunteer for Project Never Again