

Submitter: Wendy Bender

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure: SB548

My name is Wendy Bender. My father was a Circuit Court Judge in Washington County and my mother was a Case Worker for Children's Services Division. They were very involved in the foster care system. My mom then was a CASA volunteer. My husband and I have been foster parents for years. Our last Foster Child came to us after living in 30 homes. We were her 31st home she had lived in. How tragic to be moved from home to home 31 times. This is 30 times she has had her belongings thrown into a plastic bag, paper bag or a cardboard box to be moved to her next "family"

I think of how different my life was than our foster daughter's life. I lived in one home my whole childhood with a mom and a dad. Even as an adult, I have lived in the same home for 32 years. Lia has had so many "mom's and "dad's" and so many moves where her stuff is loaded in the back of her caseworker's trunk to be driven to her next "home"

Please help these children by at least giving them the dignity and respect that they deserve. Lia is now 23 and still calls us mom and dad which just warms our heart. Please help people like Lia to lighten the burden when they get thrown from house to house.

Thank you for time in reading about my concerns for children like Lia

Wendy Bender
Foster Parent