

Submitter: Daniel King

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure: SB548

At a church service a couple of years ago, I was made aware of 100+ high school students in our community who didn't know where they were going to sleep from night to night or where their next meal outside of school was coming from. I was aghast that this was happening in our community, in the 21st century and our state was doing nothing about it. My wife and I envisioned purchasing a house or enlisting a number of community members who would aid to attack this problem head-on. Then a few months ago, I found out about the plight of foster kids not only having to move around but having their dignity reduced to their lives contained in disposable, "Oregon-illegal" shopping bags, or even worse, garbage bags. Talk about "optics". With this state sitting on a surplus of federal funds, one of the lowest graduation states in the country, and one of the worst adolescent mental health programs in the country, I think it's time that more than lip service is devoted to the difficulties that our kids and young adults are going through. Not only should they be provided all of the basic necessities to get them through primary education, never having to question where they will sleep or eat, but perhaps this states representatives of the people can peel away some money to at least buy the foster kids in the system duffle bags and backpacks that will help them gain a sense of dignity as they travel through their daily tribulations.