

Submitter: Michael Steffany

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure: SB548

Being a volunteer for various non-profit organizations here in Oregon, I have been able to meet people who have experienced the use of trash bags during their transitions through Foster Care. I understand that ODHS Leadership has been saying that trash bags are not an issue, but it's easy to say that when the community has been providing duffels and luggage carriers for use, especially in the last five years. ODHS Leadership has failed to take the lead here as there is currently no effective plan in place to guarantee that it can maintain a supply of luggage carriers in the absence of community support. Without a strong buy-in from leadership, it gives the perception that they don't think this is a real issue. Hearing stories and testimonies from people who have experienced this proves that it has been a problem and we need some guarantee in place to ensure this practice doesn't continue in the future. It's unfortunate that ODHS Leadership couldn't be more proactive on this. Their failure to do so has put an undue burden on its Case Workers. It is not the fault of Case Workers, rather this is solely on ODHS Leadership. For these reasons, I support SB548.