

Submitter: Justine Avera  
On Behalf Of: Children in need  
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services  
Measure: SB548

I have provided bridge housing for families who are experiencing homelessness, and the impact on the children is quite visible. For children who are in the foster care system, that impact is multiplied. I support this bill to eradicate the use of garbage bags as a form of luggage for kids. Supplying each child with a backpack and suitcase would give them something that is theirs, that they can personalize, that tells them they are worth more than the garbage sack they have formerly had to put their possessions in. These simple personal possessions provide an anchor in an otherwise turbulent and disruptive situation, and gives them a sense of dignity, hope, and belonging. Please pass the bill to ban the use of garbage bags as luggage for kids already struggling with so much, and please increase funding to assist with mental health, nutrition, schooling, and job training for these at-risk children and youth. Something as simple as a backpack and suitcase can become the foundation for finding a new way forward in life.