



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Measure Passes Oregon Senate Showing Respect and Care for Foster Children and Their Belongings

Senate Bill 1016 requires proper luggage, not trash bags, when state agency packs for a foster child's move

SALEM, OR – Oregon Senate Democrats voted for the dignity of vulnerable children today, banning the use of trash bags for transporting foster kids' personal belongings and requiring durable carriers—such as duffel bags, suitcases, or rigid containers—when children are moving from one living situation to another.

“Transporting a foster child’s possessions in plastic trash bags demeans a child and can make them feel like they and their belongings are disposable,” said the bill’s chief sponsor **Senator Janeen Sollman (D – Hillsboro, Forest Grove & Rock Creek)**. “There is already too much trauma in the experience of transitioning from one household to another. More dignified luggage is a fix we can make immediately.”

A 2023 law directed the Oregon Department of Human Services to stock and use durable baggage for foster children but did not specifically prohibit the use of garbage sacks. The measure passed in the Senate today states clearly, “The department may not use trash bags to transport a foster child’s personal effects.” Senate Bill 1016 also directs the agency to write an annual report on their supply of luggage carriers and management of inventory. The report must also reveal the number of times over a year the agency failed to use proper luggage for a child and instead relied on trash bags.

Oregon Senate Democrats were joined by nine Republicans in supporting Senate Bill 1016. It passed 25 to 3 and now moves to the Oregon House of Representatives.

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