

At Center for Hope's medical suite, we see children of all ages from Baltimore City and County coming in for initial health visits within five days of removal and entry into foster care. We are so grateful to Comfort Cases and the ability to be able to give each child a bag full of toiletries, hygiene products, new clean pajamas, socks, and comfort items like a stuffed animal, blanket, and a book. Each child is so thankful to receive a bag for their items. Many little ones are excited to tell us what they are going to put inside their bag and show off wearing their new backpack. Several teens have stated they can't wait to use this bag for their items instead of using their school backpack. Other children are just so excited and appreciative to have items they can call their own.

We have seen so many children that had just had their lives flipped upside down and are living with complete strangers to them. Many teens living in hotels with one-to-one mentors while workers are attempting to find placements for them. So many of these children don't have a bag big enough to grab shoes, underwear, medications, etc. and they come to us for medical exams not wearing any underwear. Many children were not able to bring anything at all with them except for the clothes on their back.

By supporting this bill, you are giving these children and teens a chance to feel human. Children and teens that have been through this traumatic event don't need their lives to be any harder than it already is. By giving each child a bag to carry their belongings from location to location you are treating them like a human, like someone that is important enough to be cared for.