

Testimony in Opposition to HB2901

Submitted by CS Wright Board Chair, Adoptees United Intercountry Adoptee and Adoptee Rights Advocate

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Robinson, and Members of the Committee:

My name is CS Wright, and I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to HB2901. I am an intercountry adoptee and currently serve as the Board Chair of *Adoptees United*, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the rights of all adopted people. I also speak from personal experience—of what it means to be permanently cut off from my origins, of growing up without access to my identity, and of living with the lifelong impacts of that erasure.

Oregon has long stood as a national leader in adoptee rights. With the passage of Ballot Measure 58 more than 25 years ago, Oregon became the first state to restore the right of adult adopted people to access their original birth certificates. Since then, your state has continued to push for transparency, accountability, and truth in adoption—a legacy that many of us across the country have looked to for inspiration and guidance.

HB2901 threatens to undo that progress. Legalizing Safe Haven Baby Boxes—framed as "newborn safety devices"—reintroduces the very secrecy and shame that adoptees have fought for decades to dismantle. These boxes sever all ties at the moment of surrender, bypassing existing child welfare procedures and removing any chance for a child to one day access information about where they come from, who their parents were, or why decisions were made about their lives. That kind of erasure is not hypothetical—it is the lived experience of so many adoptees, including myself.

Children deserve better. Parents in crisis deserve real options and compassionate care—not anonymous drop-offs. HB2901 does not solve the systemic challenges families face; it simply buries them.

I urge you to vote NO on HB2901 and continue to lead the nation in policies that recognize the humanity and dignity of all adopted people.

Thank you, CS Wright Board Chair, Adoptees United Portland, OR cswright@adopteesunited.org