

RE: Testimony in Opposition to Oregon HB 2901

Dear Oregon Senate Members:

I have a question for you. How informed are you about all of the issues surrounding the push for and opposition of baby boxes? Because, if you are not well informed, then you shouldn't vote yes on HB 2901. This is not a black and white issue. With all due respect you need to do your homework. I urge you to take more time to learn about the interplay of relinquishment/abandonment, adoption, adoptee rights, reproductive rights and social justice. For example...

Do you know how much the adoption industry makes each year?

Have you looked closely at the financials of Safe Haven Baby Boxes?

Do you know how many vulnerable mothers really want to abandon their babies?

Do you know what a vulnerable mother or father might need to help them keep their baby?

Do you know how many babies have been abandoned in Oregon?

Do you truly know how your community and our state support vulnerable families whether that vulnerability is caused by poverty or addiction or teen pregnancy or religious beliefs or trauma or racism?

Do you know that adopted persons are 4 times more likely to die by suicide and are over represented in mental healthcare?

Do you understand that adopted persons lose their rights to identity?

Do you understand that adoption is not a replacement for abortion? Do you understand the difference between reproductive rights and the right to parent?

Do you understand how the option to abandon a baby is a push to deny women reproductive rights?

Are you paying attention to the adoption crisis in South Korea and other countries that are exposing coercive tactics used on women to abandon their babies?

This is a short list, but if you have answered no to any of these questions then you are not informed. You have more work to do and you must vote no on this bill.

Let me be clear and say that I don't want innocent babies to die. I also don't want them to be abandoned and I don't want vulnerable families to believe that abandonment is their only option. Our state can do better than that. We already have a safe haven law in place so there is absolutely no need to spend time, money and energy on installing baby boxes. Those resources should be utilized to help families in need so parents don't have to abandon their children. So, I ask you one last question as policy makers for our state...what can and should you do to help keep families together?

Thank you for your time and your service to our state.

With respect,

Darla Kroll  
Hood River, OR  
Born, relinquished, adopted and raised in Oregon