



April 15, 2025

Oregon State Senate  
900 Court St. NE,  
Salem Oregon 97301

**RE: VOTE NO on HB2901, BABY BOXES**

**Dear Honorable Members of the Oregon Senate:**

As an Adoptee Rights organization, we advocate for ethics, transparency, and accountability across all areas of child welfare. As a collective of adopted individuals, we are deeply concerned about the harms that "abandonment boxes" promote. These devices offer a simplistic, superficial response to what is often a complex—and sometimes temporary—situation.

We urge you to VOTE NO on HB2901. We know firsthand the long-term emotional and psychological consequences of separation—especially when decisions are made without fully considering the lifelong impact on both adoptees and birth mothers. While reunion may help recover some of what was lost, the original trauma is often irreparable.

With Safe Haven laws already in place in your state, there is no justifiable reason to support the installation of these inhumane devices. These boxes are not in the best interest of the child. Children have a fundamental right to access their own medical history, accurate birth date, and information about their origins—all of which are often lost through anonymous relinquishment.

Abandonment boxes strip away these rights. They allow for infant relinquishment without informed consent, without medical care for parent or child, and without accountability. They create the illusion of safety while actually putting infants and parents at greater risk.

There is no credible evidence that the presence of baby boxes reduces unsafe infant abandonment, a tragic event that is already rare. To suggest that a distressed parent in crisis will be guided to a box rather than already-available Safe Haven locations is to ignore the complexity of these moments. These boxes do not address the root causes of parental crisis. Instead, they deter vulnerable women from seeking the care and support they need—resulting in a permanent, life-altering decision for what may be a temporary issue.

These devices perpetuate the myth of permanent anonymity for birth parents—something DNA technology has already proven to be false. What they truly obscure is who actually is relinquishing the child. They may facilitate the concealment of abuse, rape, incest, or coercion. They do not prevent someone other than the mother—such as an abusive partner or relative—from giving up the child without her consent. And they cut off the infant's right to know and possibly maintain relationships with other biological family members who could provide care.

Modern adoption practices increasingly recognize the importance of preserving family connections when possible. These boxes completely disregard that shift—and prevent opportunities for biological families to stay connected, or for infants to be raised by kin.

It's also essential to confront an uncomfortable truth: adoption is a multi-billion dollar industry, and devices like these help maintain the supply of infants to meet market demand. While marketed as “safe and comfortable” options for babies, adoptees can attest—there is nothing comfortable or safe about being permanently separated from one's biological mother.

Senator, you have the opportunity to stand with women and children in your community by rejecting a dangerous device that encourages secrecy over support. Say NO to legislation that helps funnel infants into an industry rather than addressing the needs of struggling families.

VOTE NO on HB2901. This bill does not support children. It does not support mothers. And it undermines families and their rights.

Thank you for considering our position.

**Adoptee Advocates of Michigan**  
**Valerie Lemieux**, *Founder*