

Submitter:	Nicole Quirino
On Behalf Of:	myself
Committee:	Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	HB2901

My name is Nicole Quirino and I am from Montana. I am submitting a testimony to advocate for the women, infants and adoptees.

I'm asking you all to please say NO to HB 2901. These newborn safety devices, also known as baby boxes are seen as another act of love. HOWEVER, being an adoptee and being relinquished has left me with a form of grief I'll never be able to heal from. I was stripped of my culture, my language, and my heritage. And these baby boxes do just that. They erase the child's identity, history, medical information, and family. Maternal & family separation impacts the nervous system and brain structure. These infants will be faced to navigate aspects of pre-verbal trauma, disenfranchised grief, and ambiguous loss for the rest of their lives. The boxes deprive the child of the opportunity to connect with their biological and extended family. No one should promote abandonment. If anything we need to be focusing our efforts on family preservation. These boxes are problematic. Say no to baby boxes and please say no to HB 2901.