

Submitter: Kathryn Sanders

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2901

I am writing in support of House Bill 2901, which will expand Oregon's safe haven law to allow a parent to anonymously leave an infant in a newborn safety device.

While I do believe the implementation of such devices will provide a safer alternative to infants and a better option for parents in crisis, I ask the Committee to consider the overwhelming costs associated with installation and maintenance of newborn safety devices. The proposed amendment delegates the responsibility for the cost of installation and maintenance of the device to the authorized facility. These devices often cost upwards of \$20,000 for initial installation. I ask the Committee to consider similar bills proposed in other jurisdictions, like Nebraska, Wyoming, and Tennessee, that would allocate a certain amount of money in grants to cover the costs.

HB 2901 is necessary for providing parents in crisis with a safe and anonymous option, when they feel there are no others available. With this in mind, these parents may need support in other ways but may not feel safe to ask for information or more help. There also needs to be an effort to provide comprehensive information of available support services, so that parents in extreme crisis know that there are ways to get help.