

Submitter: Adrienne Lusk
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2901

Hello,

My name is Adrienne. I'm a Trans-racial adoptee from the state of Texas.

For over two decades, the state of Oregon has been an example of safe and meaningful legislation for adoptees across the nation. The advocacy for adoptee rights in the state of Oregon are even heard all the way down south in the state of Texas.

This is why hearing that the legislator scheduling a hearing for Oregon baby boxes was concern enough to testify here today.

Texas has open baby boxes. It is an expensive and logistical nightmare for everyone involved. Costing hundreds of thousands of dollars and requiring a network of resources that are not in place, the system is also cruel and navigates away from the focus of keeping families together.

In San Antonio now, years after Texas legislator's approval, boxes have still not gone out and the idea is to target minorities and migrants when they finally get their boxes out. The process is a complete mess without any semblance of organization or care for families trapped in the process.

This is a repeat of some of our worst moments in American history. Texas is a key state focusing on baby boxes and that should tell the legislative body in Oregon that this is not the direction the state wishes to go in, especially after 20+ years of Oregon leading the nation in adoption advocacy.

With the money it takes to create and run these boxes, there are so many other programs and infrastructure the state can fund to continue in the advocacy of its vulnerable infrastructure and families. These programs, such as reproductive, health, food, and medical resources, would be more aligned with the last 25 years of Oregon's push for keeping families together and helping families in need.

Seeing the worst of the baby box policy in real time here in the state of Texas, and being an adoptee myself, I 100% oppose this bill and hope that this body will too.

Thank you for your time.