



**Bastard Nation: the Adoptee Rights Organization**

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**To:** Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

**FROM:** Marley Greiner, Executive Chair

**RE:** SB311/HB327: Safe Haven Baby Boxes - OPPOSITION

**Date:** February 20, 2023

Bastard Nation: the Adoptee Rights Organization is the largest adoptee civil rights organization in the United States. We support only full unrestricted access for all adopted persons to their original birth certificates (OBC) and related documents. We strongly oppose SB311/HB327. These bills:

- Create a parallel child welfare system that rejects informed consent and a full record of identifying information and social and medical histories of the newborn. Use eliminates adoptees' right to identity by denying their right to full and original birth and heritage records
- Replace professional best practice standards with unprofessional and unethical "relinquishment" by letting parents abandon solely for convenience or out of ignorance with no counseling, paper-signing, or discussion on alternatives such as government and private financial and material assistance for family preservation, temporary foster care, and legitimate adoption planning.
- Deny the non-surrendering parent the right of custody and to rear her or his own child. There is no mechanism in place to prove that the "surrendering" person has the legal right to do so. Abusive, embarrassed, or frightened partners, spouses or family

members and even sex traffickers can use drop boxes without consent or knowledge of the (other) parent with no repercussions.

- Hides crime such as rape, incest, spousal and partner abuse, and trafficking.
- Preys on undocumented and refugee parents who can't or won't seek medical and social services for fear of arrest, deportation, and loss of other children. It forces them to give birth dangerously and secretly and to secretly abandon them if they can't care for them.