

This is joint letter submitted by Bastard Nation: the Adoptee Rights Organization and Stop Safe Haven Baby Boxes Now in opposition to SB 1690. It is a heavily edited version of our complete letter to the committee at <http://bit.ly/4hJJ1Nt>

*SB1690 is a vendor bill that benefits one company, Safe Haven Baby Boxes Inc in Wodburn Indiana, a **multi-million-dollar ministry that is the only source of the devices in the US**. It controls the manufacture, promotion, sales, installation, and referral to baby boxes in the US. It created the baby box market, writes bills, lobbies legislatures, produces boxes at its own factory, installs the devices, operates a hot line, and publicizes baby boxings.

*** SHBB Inc controls the signage on and around boxes that acts an advertisement for the ministry. Some locations have reportedly attempted to include their own signage directing parents to consider traditional personal walk-in handovers. They have reportedly been prohibited from distributing non-company information about medical issues mothers may experience and information about local assistance.

Instead, SHBB Inc offers their own information packet in an orange bag found inside the box. The packet contains minimal and possibly wrong information A box located in the Cincinnati area referred mothers to a midwife in Fort Wayne, Indiana, 180 miles away. The Ohio Health Review Board found the bag to be debris as per state law and has forbidden the company from putting it in the box.

Box locations are required to inform SHBB Inc within 2 hours of a drop-off; then prohibited from announcing the case publicly until the company shapes an official announcement that appears in news and social media,.

*** Baby box promotion discourages women from seeking pre-and postnatal care. Instead, SHBB Inc assists those in “crisis pregnancies” to undergo dangerous and unsafe births and care outside of a safe setting.

SHBB Inc claims that it suggests its callers seek medical and counseling services pre- and postnatal care, financial assistance, etc, **but its 9-minute video is a step-by-step guide, targeting teenage girls, on how to keep pregnancy, delivery, and childbirth concealed**. It implies heavily that secret pregnancy is physically and emotionally easy and unattended childbirth is uncomplicated and safe. Those who follow its guidance could die. Their babies could die. **According to SHBB Inc, the youngest mother they have guided anonymously to the box was 12.** .

2 deaths are associated with baby boxes. SHBB Inc announced that one of its mothers OD'd shortly after boxing her baby---a suspected suicide. In Blackfoot, Idaho, [an 18-year old mom left her deceased newborn in a box](#) and is being prosecuted for failure to report a death.

*** Baby boxes are unregulated. The USDA does not consider them to be medical devices and they **are not tested by Underwriters Laboratory; thus, not UL certified**. Without it, manufacturers and 3rd parties-- in the case of baby boxes--- the state, locations and municipalities that permit their installation could be held liable for personal injuries or property damage caused by non-complaint devices.

According to the [Quality Inspection.org](http://QualityInspection.org) website equipment that should have UL certification includes (1) Electrical and Electronic equipment (appliances, power supplies, etc.) and (2) Alarm signaling devices (smoke detectors, fire suppression and alarm monitoring))

Your microwave, TV, the nightstand lamp, and even your power cords should be UL compliant, but electrically- operated baby boxes that contain a multiple alarm system, are not.

Recently the SHBB Inc CEO said that getting UL certification is expensive and they have been working on getting it for 2 years. According to the Quality Inspection site, “A small and simple product could cost between \$2-5k, requiring several samples per test, and take about 3-4 weeks to complete the testing.” More complex products can cost more \$50k and take over a month.