

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 oppose LB214 and have sent HHS an in-depth opposition statement. This is the link to our [Talking Points | Stop Baby Boxes Now!](#) sheet.

Adoptee rights and adoption reform organizations throughout the United States oppose deceptive relinquishment practices that are rooted in shame and secrecy, lead to drastic permanent solutions to temporary problems, and create a population of adopted people who have no birth records, identity, or history.

We seek ethics, transparency, and accountability in adoption and in related child welfare practices, not band-aid and gimmick solutions to social, political, economic, and mental health problems that cause newborn discards. Contrary to long-standing and established child welfare policies, the use of baby boxes (sometimes called “newborn safety devices”) as proposed in LB214 is antithetical to these standards.

### **Key points—Safe Haven Baby Boxes**

1. Creates a secretive and shadow child welfare system that eliminates informed consent, a child's identifying information and right to identity as well as any record of the social/medical history.
2. Commodifies infants and normalizes “legal” baby abandonment as a consumer choice.
3. Replaces professional best practice standards with unprofessional and unethical “relinquishment” procedures.
4. Deprives the non-surrendering parent due process and the right to rear their own child
5. Creates at-risk adoptions through litigation brought by a non-surrendering parent and tribes under ICWA protections
6. Safe Haven Baby Boxes Inc, the organization behind LB214 invented and controls the entire baby box industry from bill-writing and lobbying to manufacture to installation to hotline to promotion to media. They frequently exploit children left in boxes featuring them at public events such as box blessing and fundraisers and say that each baby dropped in a box brings them publicity and more money There is no other source in the US for the devices. In other words, LB214 and similar bills throughout the country are vendor bills.
7. Promotion and the availability of baby abandonment boxes discourages women from seeking pre-and post-natal care. Instead, SHBB Inc facilitates those in “crisis pregnancies” to undergo dangerous and unsafe unattended births and care outside of medical and safe settings. SHBB Inc claims that it advises it callers to seek counseling services pre- and postnatal care, safe delivery, etc, **but the 9 minute video (deceptively called a Public Service Announcement) which has had 27K views on YouTube, is a step-by-step guide, targeting teenage girls, on how to keep pregnancy, delivery, and birth concealed--a secret.** Those who follow its guidance could die. Their babies could die. According to SHBB Inc, the youngest mother they have guided to the box was 12.

Nebraska can do better than this. We urge you to consider the negative consequences of LB 214 and to vote DO NOT PASS.

Thank you.