



March 10, 2026

The Honorable Members
Senate Health and Human Services Committee
Georgia State Senate
State Capitol
206 Washington Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30334

RE: VOTE NO on HB350, BABY BOXES

Dear Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee:

On behalf of an adoptee-led organization advocating for ethics, transparency, and accountability in child welfare, we respectfully urge you to **VOTE NO on HB350**. Georgia already has Safe Haven laws that allow infants to be safely relinquished while ensuring medical care, documentation, and the possibility of informed decision-making. Baby Abandonment boxes bypass all these safeguards and introduce serious legal and ethical concerns.

HB350 would:

- **Create a secretive child welfare system.** Baby boxes promise anonymity that modern DNA testing has made unrealistic. Instead, they conceal the child's identity and strip them of their rights to accurate birth records, identifying information, and family medical history.
- **Remove informed consent and professional oversight.** Infants can be abandoned without counseling, medical care, documentation, or discussion of alternatives. Promoting abandonment is unethical considering that global studies show it is strongly linked to higher risks of suicide and mental health challenges for both birth mothers and adoptees.
- **Violate the rights of the non-surrendering parent and family.** Fathers and other biological relatives may never know the child exists, eliminating their opportunity to assume custody. Putative Father Registries cannot function when the mother's identity is legally erased.
- **Encourage secrecy during pregnancy.** Promoting anonymous surrender discourages women from seeking medical care or support, increasing health risks for both mother and infant and preventing intervention in cases of abuse, coercion, or mental health crises such as postpartum depression.
- **Conflict with modern child welfare policy.** Anonymous infant surrender undermines family reunification principles in the Adoption and Safe Families Act and may bypass tribal notification protections under the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).
- **Expand a private product under the guise of public policy.** Baby boxes in the U.S. are controlled entirely by Safe Haven Baby Boxes Inc., a multi-million-dollar ministry that manufactures, installs, trains staff, runs a referral hotline, lobbies lawmakers, and publicly markets each use, raising questions about the motivations behind this privately controlled public policy effort.

Ultimately, while baby abandonment boxes are often presented as compassionate solutions for parents in crisis, **no credible evidence shows they reduce unsafe infant abandonment**, which is already rare. Research from Europe and analysis by the Yale Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics show that baby abandonment **boxes do not reduce infanticide, may increase overall abandonment**, and often substitute for safer, supervised surrenders, offering no medical or legal protections that existing Safe Haven laws provide. **Adoption is a \$24 billion industry**, and Safe Haven Baby Boxes create a mechanism for permanent, anonymous family separation without oversight or accountability, effectively increasing the supply of adoptable infants at the expense of women, infants, and families.

Nothing about being separated from your mother as an infant feels safe, it causes trauma that lasts a lifetime for many mothers and their children. Decisions made in moments of crisis can have lifelong consequences. **Public policy should prioritize support, transparency, and family preservation whenever possible—not anonymous abandonment.**

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to **VOTE NO on HB350**. Thank you for considering our position.

Adoptee Advocates of Michigan
Valerie Lemieux, *Founder*