

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Human Services
For HB 2010

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Hearing Date: April 4, 2023 8:00 AM

Marley Greiner, Ms

Bastard Nation: the Adoptee Rights Organization

Corpus Christi, TX

Bastard Nation: the Adoptee Rights Organization is the largest adoptee civil rights organization in the US. We support only full unrestricted access for all adopted persons, to their original birth certificates and related documents. We oppose SB 22 Safe Haven Baby Boxes and urge you to oppose. We demand ethics and accountability in adoption and related childcare practices, not a band-aid solution to social, political, and mental health problems that cause newborn discard to occur.

Bastard Nation and adoptee rights advocates believe the implementation of Baby Boxes:

Creates a parallel child welfare system that rejects informed consent and a full record of identifying information and social and medical histories of the newborn. Their use eliminates adoptees' right to identity by denying their access to original birth and heritage records.

Replaces 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 family preservation alternatives.

Denies the non-surrendering parent the right of custody and to rear their 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 can use drop boxes without consent or knowledge of the (other) parent with no repercussions.

Disenfranchises natural parents—particularly the non-surrendering parent (usually the father)—their right to due process.

Creates at-risk adoptions due to possible litigation from the non-surrendering parent or biological family members seeking custody.

Contravenes the family reunification guidelines of the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act and parts of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) which can cause federal litigation.

Encourages women to keep problematic pregnancies a secret by discouraging them from seeking family and professional communication, assistance for sexual/physical abuse, mental illness,

substance abuse, and social isolation—factors that cause nearly every newborn discard.

Discourages women from seeking pre- and post-natal care and to give unsafe unattended birth.

Hides crime such as rape, incest, and spousal/partner abuse.

Preys on undocumented and refugee parents who can't or won't seek medical and social services for fear of arrest, deportation, 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.

Does not decrease infant mortality rates, as suggested by promoters. According to NIH, the main causes of infant death are (1) birth defects, (2) preterm birth and low birth weight, (3) Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, (4) pregnancy complications and (5) accidents. The nobody-has-to-know-you-had-this baby ideology of Baby Box promoters exacerbates 1, 2, and 4.

Please vote DO NOT PASS on HB2010