

HB1205 testimony

My name is Alexa Lajimodiere. I am a resident of Fargo. My husband and I are adopting an infant who was surrendered in North Dakota under Safe Haven Law. I am writing to express my support for House Bill 1205.

HB1205 provides a clear definition of a "newborn safety device," specifying essential safety features such as being part of an approved location, 24/7 staffing, temperature control, ventilation, and an alarm system that notifies staff when an infant is placed in the device. It would allow parents to safely surrender their infant less than 60 days old in the devices without facing prosecution. By permitting the use of these devices, the bill offers parents a discreet alternative, potentially encouraging those who might otherwise abandon their infants in unsafe conditions to choose a secure and legal option.

Infants between 60-365 days can still be surrendered to an on-duty staff person at an approved location. This aspect of HB1205 is very important to our family because at the time of our daughter's surrender, she was older than 60 days. It would have been illegal to surrender her in any state other than ND or Iowa as all other states have significantly lower age limits for safe haven.

As a North Dakota resident, I believe that the implementation of newborn safety devices is a compassionate and practical solution to prevent tragic outcomes for infants whose parents may be in crisis. By providing a safe, anonymous, and legal option for surrendering infants, we can protect the most vulnerable members of our society and offer them a chance for a healthy future.

I urge the committee to support House Bill No. 1205, as it represents a proactive and humane approach to infant safety and well-being in North Dakota.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Alexa Lajimodiere