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**Dear House Human Services Committee,**

I am testifying today in support of HB 1205, which seeks to expand our current Safe Haven laws by introducing Safe Haven Baby Boxes into our communities. These boxes will provide parents with the option to safely and anonymously surrender their infants in a secure environment.

This bill will not only offer a crucial resource for vulnerable parents but will also raise public awareness of Safe Haven laws, ultimately contributing to saving more infant lives. According to the National Safe Haven Alliance, 102 babies were saved through Safe Haven laws in 2023. These laws work—they give infants a second chance, and they allow loving families the opportunity to adopt and care for these children.

In North Dakota, we already have numerous success stories showcasing the positive impact of our Safe Haven laws. By adding physical Safe Haven Baby Boxes, we can further strengthen these efforts and ensure even more lives are protected.

I respectfully recommend a "due pass" for HB 1205 to implement this important resource in our state.

Sincerely,

Bridget Turbide