



American College of
Obstetricians & Gynecologists

April 13, 2026

Alaska State Legislature
House Judiciary Committee; Chair, Representative Andrew Gray
House.Judiciary@akleg.gov

Dear Chair Gray and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

ACOG Alaska represents roughly 60 physicians who provide ob-gyn care across Alaska, we would like to share several concerns related to patient safety, postpartum care, and continuity of medical information raised by HB 64 and SB 9.

HB 64 and SB 9 authorizes infant safety devices that allow anonymous surrender without face to face interaction. While this approach is intended to reduce barriers for parents in crisis, it raises concerns about missed opportunities for critical postpartum medical and mental health care.

The immediate postpartum period is a time of heightened medical risk and serious complications such as postpartum hemorrhage, infection, hypertensive disorders, depression, and postpartum psychosis frequently occurs days to weeks after delivery. Postpartum care is an ongoing process requiring timely assessment and follow up as opposed to a single encounter. Allowing infant surrender without any clinical contact may unintentionally bypass opportunities to identify and address urgent health needs for the birth mother.

HB 64 includes language related to confidential birth. We understand the importance of privacy protection. However, access to accurate medical history is essential to providing safe care to both the newborn and the birth parent. Limitations on the accessibility of medical information can compromise immediate neonatal care and screening, identification of genetic or infectious conditions, medication safety, etc. Privacy protections must be balanced with safeguards that preserve essential medical information so that providers can meet established standards of care.

We would welcome the opportunity to work with legislators on guardrails or amendments that support access to postpartum medical and mental health care, preservation of medical information and alignment with evidence-based standards, but must express our reservations and concerns with the legislation as written.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Truitt', is written over a light blue background.

Dr. Sarah Truitt, ACOG Alaska Chair
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