



March 31, 2025

Office of Senator Robert Myers
Alaska State Capitol
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for Senate Bill 9 – Surrender of Infants; Infant Safety Device

Senator Myers,

Alaska Children's Trust offers our support for Senate Bill 9, which would authorize the use of infant safety devices as an additional method of infant relinquishment under Alaska's current safe surrender laws. As the statewide lead organization focused on the prevention of child abuse and neglect, we support policies that promote the health & well-being of Alaska's children and families. Senate Bill 9 does this by expanding designated safe locations for infants to be relinquished anonymously.

Senate Bill 9 provides the option to relinquish an infant using an infant safety device, allowing the infant to receive immediate care and attention. Infant safety devices are climate-controlled and equipped with automatic locks and surveillance to immediately alert appropriate personnel to that an infant has been surrendered.

Additionally, this option offers protection to relinquishing parents who may be feeling vulnerable or uncertain about relinquishing their child using other legal methods. Current safe surrender laws require a parent to directly surrender the infant to another individual. Parents who must make the hard choice to relinquish their child may be experiencing shame or fear of potential recognition, which can be barriers to a safe surrender. Providing additional safe surrender options supports parents and protects infants by limiting the additional physical harm and trauma that can occur when infants are not surrendered to an individual.

Senate Bill 9 would support Alaska's most vulnerable children by designating safe locations for infants to be relinquished. Thank you for introducing this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TJS', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Trevor J. Storrs
President & CEO

