

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,

Trevor J. Storrs
President & CEO

MIKE MCKAY
Legislative District 1
Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties



Judicial Proceedings Committee
Executive Nominations Committee

Joint Committees
Administrative, Executive,
and Legislative Review
Children, Youth, and Families
Program Open Space and Agricultural
Land Preservation

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 416
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3565 • 301-858-3565
800-492-7122 Ext. 3565
Mike.McKay@senate.state.md.us

Cumberland Office
100N Mechanic Street
Cumberland, Maryland 21502
240-362-7040

Williamsport Office
2N Conococheque Street
Williamsport Town Hall
Williamsport, Maryland

April 1, 2025

The Honorable Senator Robert Myers
State Capitol Room 7
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Myers,

I am writing to lend my full support for Senate Bill 9 that will expand Alaska's Safe Haven Law. I am proud to say that I was able to get passed similar legislation in Maryland that will prioritize the safety of these abandoned children, so they have a chance at a good and healthy life ahead of them. It provides a safe and anonymous alternative for young women who are currently unable or choose not to raise a child for various reasons. It was an honor to testify for this bill and I look forward to seeing this passed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike McKay". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "M" and "K".

Senator Mike McKay
Representing Appalachia Maryland
Serving Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties
District 1