

Senator Robert Myers
State Capitol Room 7
Juneau, AK 99801

Representative Frank Tomaszewski
State Capitol Room 405
Juneau, AK 99801

February 4, 2025

Dear Senator Myers and Representative Tomaszewski,

I am writing you as a constituent, South Anchorage community member, Anchorage Fire Department Telecommunicator and public servant, to lend my support for SB9 and HB64 to expand the Safe Haven Law to allow for safe surrender in an infant safety device. As a nearly 18-year 911 dispatcher, I have personally experienced the trauma of answering a call for an abandoned infant found deceased in an Eagle River Park. I don't wish that trauma on any other First Responders, unsuspecting bystander that finds the infant, or parent who felt like they had no other choice.

Although our current Safe Haven Law allows for safe surrender and confidentiality, it does not fulfill the need for anonymity. The most recent abandoned infant, found November 1, 2024, was located only 1 block from a fire station in downtown Anchorage. On January 1, 2022, an infant was found in a cardboard box in negative 12-degree temperatures in Fairbanks. In September 1986 an infant was abandoned in a cardboard box outside a thrift shop on Muldoon Road in Anchorage.

Allowing infant safety devices would provide a safe and anonymous surrender option. Infant safety devices are voluntary and do not require funding by the local, state or federal government. Funding is often generated through individual donors and/or charitable organizations who support infant safety devices in the community. The devices are secure, monitored and have a temperature-controlled environment.

As of writing this letter, 19 states allow for safe surrender in an infant safety device and 12 other states are currently reviewing the legislation considering the update. As a lifelong Alaskan, I would be incredibly proud to add Alaska to the list of states that allow for safe surrender in an infant safety device.

I wholeheartedly support SB9 and HB64 and am willing to provide testimony if you find that beneficial. Thank you for sponsoring these bills.

Respectfully,

Frances Robinson
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