



OREGON STATE FIRE FIGHTERS COUNCIL

International Association of Fire Fighters
AFL-CIO CLC

January 30, 2024

House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services
Chair Annessa Hartman
Vice Chair Hoa Nguyen
Vice Chair Anna Scharf
Committee Members

Madame Chair, Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

Good morning and for the record, Karl Koenig President of the Oregon State Fire Fighters Council and a retired Captain Paramedic from Clackamas County. We represent over 3800 career fire fighters, paramedics, prevention and wildland professionals across Oregon.

We are here to testify in favor of House Bill 2901 as another literal tool box in the tool box of the Safe Surrender of a newborn child law here in Oregon.

Having sensible options to minimize the extremis of giving up a newborn is the goal of Representative McIntire's bill before you today. Having been a paramedic my entire 35 year career extreme situations were a significant part of my profession. The surrender of a newborn certainly qualifies as an extreme situation. This addition to the law is a option that certainly is not easy but responsible in the monitoring, alarm and notification of a newborn in ultimate need.

We support the concept of local control and the lack of mandatory placement, having fire stations as one of those facilities for placement is logical as we are a 24-hour occupation. We agree with the Sheriff's Association comments regarding newborn safety, Parents in extremis, Community Safety options and for that reason we urge a yes vote in committee on HB 2901.

I can answer any comments or questions

Regards

Karl Koenig

Karl Koenig
President
Oregon State Fire Fighters Council