



TO: Health and Human Services Committee
FROM: Marion Miner, Associate Director of Pro-Life & Family Policy
Nebraska Catholic Conference
DATE: March 6, 2025
RE: LB214 (Additions to the Newborn Safe Haven Act) (Support)

The Nebraska Catholic Conference advocates for the public policy interests of the Catholic Church and advances the Gospel of Life through engaging, educating, and empowering public officials, Catholic laity, and the general public.

The Conference supports LB214, which makes additions to the Newborn Safe Haven Act.

Building on LB876 (2024), LB214 would expand Nebraska's safe haven law to allow for a completely anonymous surrender of an infant by the infant's parent at locations where a "newborn safety device" (often referred to as a "safe haven baby box") is located.

There is tragedy involved anytime a baby (or any child) is separated from one or both of his parents. Where a parent or family simply needs help with resources, giving them assistance with those material needs and keeping that family together is to be preferred as being in the best interest of the child and the family. That is one area in which Nebraska's many pregnancy help organizations excel.

But there are also situations where a parent or family is truly desperate, often for more than simple economic reasons, and where they believe they simply cannot care for their child. LB214 makes it easier for parents in that situation to safely place the child with caretakers, completely anonymously if desired. This is clearly much better than abandonment or infanticide, which sadly is not unknown in Nebraska. Surrender to a safe haven is much more merciful not only to the child, but also to the parents, who will not have to suffer the guilt of true abandonment or wonder if their child was found safe.

Every person, down to the smallest child, has human dignity. The more helpless a person is, the greater our responsibility to protect and be of service to them. LB214 advances that end. We ask you to advance it to General File.

Thank you for your time and consideration.