



ELLEN SCHUTT

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 31ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Safe Haven “Baby Box” Bill Heads to the Governor

Madison, WI – Today, the State Assembly unanimously approved Representative Ellen Schutt’s (R-Clinton) bill to expand the existing safe haven law to include the use of newborn infant safety devices, also known as “Baby Boxes.”

Following the bill’s passage, Representative Schutt made the following statement:

“This bill provides distressed parents with a secure and anonymous alternative to in-person relinquishment, which will ultimately save countless newborn baby lives.”

Senate Bill 369 allows a municipality to install a newborn infant safety device at a hospital, fire station, or law enforcement agency building so a parent can relinquish their newborn with complete anonymity. The building where the baby box is located must be staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Once a baby is placed in the designated box, an alarm is automatically triggered inside the building to alert them. Relinquishment must be within 72 hours of the child’s birth.

“This issue hits close to home for me,” Representative Schutt continued. “Earlier this year, a newborn baby was left to die in a farm field in Whitewater. The heart-wrenching story driven by fear and desperation highlights the urgent need for solutions that can prevent such heartbreaking outcomes. After tragic events like this, some municipalities and citizens have expressed a desire to install baby boxes in their own communities.

“All life is important. If this legislation saves even one newborn, it’s worth the investment and effort. I look forward to the Governor signing this life-saving bill into law.”

Senate Bill 369 will now head to Governor Evers’ desk for his approval. If signed into law, Wisconsin would join 15 other states to allow the installation of newborn infant safety devices, rather than just the face-to-face relinquishment method.

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The 31st Assembly District includes the City of Elkhorn, portions of the Cities of Beloit, and Whitewater, the Villages of Clinton and Darien, the Towns of Bradford, Clinton, Johnstown, La Prairie, Turtle, Darien, Lafayette, La Grange, Richmond, Spring Prairie, Sugar Creek, and Whitewater, and portions of the Town of Beloit.