September 4, 2018

The Honorable Judy Emmons
State Senator
State Capitol
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Dear Chairwoman Emmons:

On behalf of the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs, we are writing to express our opposition to HB's 5750-51 and HB's 5953-54, that amend the Safe Delivery of Newborns Act allowing for Newborn Safety Devices. Although we understand the intent and purpose behind this important legislation, we have concerns regarding the real-life application of the proposed safety devices.

Fire stations and ambulance services across the state vary greatly according to each individual community's needs. Many fire stations do not have staff present 24 hours per day. In fact, in some communities, stations may have an individual come in very sporadically and can be left with no one for days at a time.

For these reasons combined with Michigan's harsh weather conditions, the "newborn safety devices" authorized in the proposed legislation is of great concern to our emergency first responders. MAFC believes that a more comprehensive review of these devices and their use is warranted to include other representatives comprising members of health care, domestic violence survivors and child advocacy organizations prior to legislation being enacted.

MAFC respectfully ask that these bills receive further review through a workgroup process prior to action by the Senate Families, Seniors and Human Services Committee. We appreciate your attention to this important legislation and are available to you and your staff if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dave Glotzbach

Dave Glotzbach
President MAFC