

Rather unconventional, my journey with the Illinois Safe Haven Law was not through a traditional means like formal education, instead, my awareness was sparked by a news story I stumbled upon during my teenage years. As a young individual eager to broaden my knowledge about the world, this news story ignited my curiosity and prompted me to research deeper into the legislation and its impact on Illinois communities.

In the spring of 2022, while browsing through videos on YouTube, I came across a segment from CBS Chicago that delved into the Safe Haven Law in Illinois. Specifically, this video addressed a case that happened in the town of Hoffman Estates, a town I previously lived in when I attended MacArthur International Spanish Academy. Intrigued by the headline and thumbnail, I clicked on the video, unsure of what to expect. This heartwarming story and the compassionate response of the authorities resonated deeply with me, sparking a conversation with my own mother about the importance of such legislation. Reflecting back, I owe a debt of gratitude to my mother for nurturing my curiosity/fostering a passion for knowledge from a young age. Through our discussions, my mother encouraged me to explore topics beyond the headlines. For more information, I turned to reputable news sources like the Chicago Tribune, where I found many in-depth articles exploring the complexities of the Safe Haven Law and its implications for mothers. Delving deeper into the subject, hungry for knowledge and understanding I soon learned the profound impact that media exposure can have in shaping our perspectives and fueling our curiosity.

Through my research I've observed that while existing awareness efforts have made significant strides we can always do more. I propose implementing more community outreach programs and social media campaigns to ensure accessibility to all. I strongly believe that engaging young people through educational programs, school assemblies, and youth-led initiatives can empower the next generation to become advocates for newborn safety and ambassadors for the Safe Haven Law within their communities. I believe leveraging digital platforms such as social media like TikTok and Instagram to share informational videos, testimonials, and resources can effectively reach a younger audience and encourage dialogue amongst young adults regarding the law. Also as a 2nd-generation Thai-American I believe it is essential to provide informational materials and resources in multiple languages. Translating key messages about the Safe Haven Law can empower individuals from diverse backgrounds to access information and seek assistance when needed. Additionally to having accessible

multilingual resources, I believe it is important to engage directly with diverse communities. Collaborating with local community centers, religious institutions, and cultural organizations can facilitate targeted outreach efforts tailored to specific demographics and cultures, which can bridge gaps in awareness and foster a culture of support/understanding.

Inspired by Morgan Jayne Hill's unwavering commitment, I propose we highlight success stories, educate the public, and foster dialogue, ensuring that every individual knows their options and makes informed decisions so no newborn is left in harm's way.