



February 13, 2018

Re: Support of SB 1562

Dear Chair Prozanski and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

My husband was killed in the line of duty. On November 3, 2013, Rob was shot while responding to what first responders thought was a house fire. The investigation later detailed the suspect's plan to kill his domestic partner, his neighbors and ultimately himself. The victim told investigators that the suspect strangled her as she fought for her life. The only thing that ended up saving her life was the pepper spray she kept in her pocket. She did this because she had been assaulted by him before and she knew that one day he was going to kill her. She always carried the pepper spray because she was always at risk—imagine living your life that way.

The victim was able to escape, but the suspect went on a rampage. He lit his house on fire. My husband Rob interrupted him as he was trying to break into the home of a neighbor with a clear plan to kill her. The suspect shot and killed my husband, within minutes of strangling his girlfriend.

I am now raising our daughter alone. Ziva is four years old and talks about her dad, who she only knows through pictures. I am committed to keeping Rob's memory and his legacy alive. I do not want anybody to ever forget the amazing man Rob was and the sacrifice he made to his community with his life.

My husband's killer had a history of strangling women. I later learned that men who kill police officers often have a history of strangling women. Yet in Oregon, that is only a misdemeanor.

How can something so predictive of men who kill be treated so lightly by the criminal justice system in Oregon?

If Oregon had taken strangulation more seriously, my husband might be alive today.

Respectfully,

Wendy Libke