



TCDSVN

Tri-County Domestic and Sexual Violence Intervention Network

2/12/2018

Dear Legislators,

On behalf of the Tri-County Domestic and Sexual Violence Intervention Network, a collective of non-profits providing domestic and sexual violence advocacy and prevention services throughout the tri-county area to survivors, we encourage you to vote in favor of SB-1562. Survivors are commonly physically abused in ways which are not readily visible to their neighbors, employers, children etc. strategically so by the abuser so not to offer evidence of the abuse. There are often no visible injuries but the research overwhelmingly demonstrates that strangulation causes: PTSD, depression, suicidal ideation, memory problems, anxiety, severe stress reaction, amnesia and psychosis, cervical spine injury, seizures, carotid artery hematoma, thyroid storm syndrome, as well as delayed death due to carotid artery dissection and respiratory complications such as pneumonia, acute thrombotic stroke, ARDS and the risk of blood clots traveling to the brain (embolization).

Many times survivors are not aware of how lethal such behavior is and the lasting impact strangulation can cause. We have no doubt that strangulation often constitutes very serious criminal behavior and that its impact has, until recently, been underestimated. Thanks to years of research we now know that strangulation is one of the best predictors of a future homicide in domestic violence cases. Studies show that over 40% of women murdered in domestic violence homicides and over 45% of attempted murder victims had been strangled in the past year by their abusive male partner.

The Tri-County Domestic and Sexual Violence Intervention Network offers education and awareness throughout Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington counties regarding the lethality of strangulation and the prevalence of this abusive tendency among abusers. Please join our efforts to end this lethal form of abuse towards survivors by the passing of SB-1562 to increase the penalty for domestic violence strangulation from a misdemeanor to a felony and add impeding an airway through compression of the chest to the definition.

Respectfully


Fay Schuler

503-872-8627

TCDSVN Advocacy Chair

Member Programs

Bradley Angle

Call to Safety

Clackamas Women's Services

Domestic Violence Resource Center

Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization

Impact NW

Legal Aid Services of Oregon

LifeWorks New Options

NAYA Healing Circle

Oregon Crime Victim Law Center

Proyecto UNICA

Raphael House of Portland

Russian Oregon Social Services

Sexual Assault Resource Center

Self Enhancement, Inc.

VOA Home Free

West Women's & Children's Shelter

YWCA of Greater Portland