

February 12, 2018

Re: SB 1652

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on behalf of many who have experienced strangulation.

As a domestic violence survivor and as a 6"5' tall woman I was strangled for years by my spouse. You wouldn't think that a woman of my stature could be diminished in just a second. Strangulation put fear in my life and put a chokehold on my freedom. There is nothing more fearful then watching your spouse with evil in their eyes sit over you and hold you in a way that stops your breathing, hope, and sense of self. It is a prison that you feel like you can never get out of. It is a prison that many feel like they cannot find the key to release them. We also know that strangulation increases the chances of the murder in domestic violence situation by over 750%. This is unacceptable and these victims are in a personal prison and held hostage by the grip of the law.

Today I'm calling you to action. I ask that you release the grip from the victim of strangulation give them the key to freedom by voting yes to SB 1652

Sincerely, Libra Ford