

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

As a domestic violence survivor I am writing to ask you support SB1562 making strangulation a felony in Oregon. My ex-husband strangled me against a wall, my toes just brushing the floor, while holding our 3-day old daughter in his other hand. According to a first hand report, I am not the first intimate partner he has strangled. He was never prosecuted for strangulation, and if he had been in Oregon, I have discovered it would have been for a misdemeanor; essentially a ticket for strangulation?

Statistics have shown that abusers who strangle are more likely to kill police officers, commit mass public shootings, and be repeat violent offenders. Seven of 10 police officers killed just in Clackamas County last year were killed by domestic violence offenders who had histories of strangling intimate partners.

Most states prosecute strangulation as a felony. Please vote to get Oregon up to speed with the rest of the nation in valuing significant punishment and accountability equivalent to such a violent and life-threatening crime.

Please vote yes on SB1562 to protect Oregon's police officers, women, children, and potentially innocent by-standers.

Sincerely and thank you,

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Voices Committee

A Safe Place Family Justice Center, Clackamas Women's Services