

Chair Barker, Vice Chair Olson, Vice Chair Williamson and members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

In Oregon's Pioneer days there was an intensive campaign to get women to leave the East and settle in the West by offering them more rights and protections from oppression and abuse.

Now Oregon is behind the rest of the country in protecting women and children from danger by continuing to dismiss strangulation as a mere misdemeanor.

A decade long study by the Women's Foundation of Oregon shows that over half of the women in Oregon are victims of sexual assault and/or domestic violence (Count Her In Report).

Oregon is now a perilous place for women and mothers to live, especially when we book and release one of the most dangerous types of police killers, mass killers, and repeat violent offenders; men who strangle their partners.

We thank our law enforcement for their protection and especially those who have given their lives because this law was not passed sooner.

Thank you for supporting SB1562 and for valuing women's, children's, and police officers lives and safety.

Deirdra A. Eden

Chair, Voices Committee, A Safe Place, Family Justice Center of Clackamas County.

Children's Rights Advocate

Amazon Best-Selling Author

Reference:

Women's Foundation of Oregon, Count Her In

<https://womensfoundationoforegon.org/uploads/CountHerInreport.pdf>