



February 23, 2018

Chair Barker, Vice Chairs Olson and Williamson, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of OR, we respectfully urge you to pass Senate Bill 1562 A.

AAUW promotes the social and physical well-being of all persons, and the freedom from violence and fear of violence in homes and communities.

Strangulation represents a red flag for serious domestic abuse and often ends in tragedy. Statistics from the Training Institute for Strangulation Prevention state that one in four women will experience intimate partner violence in their lifetimes, and of women at high risk, up to 68 percent will experience near-fatal strangulation by their partner. Loss of consciousness can occur within 5 to 10 minutes; death within minutes.¹

It is not that if a victim has been choked before, the victim will be choked again, but that there is a tremendous risk of being killed by the person who choked the victim before.

Perpetrators of this kind of activity should not be able to get away with a misdemeanor. We can also hope that if Oregon's laws make clear that this conduct is felonious, that perpetrators will get the idea that they are doing something wrong.

Sincerely,

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¹ <https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/the-act-violence/201703/strangulation-and-domestic-violence-murders>