



Testimony in support of SB 1562 A
House Committee on Judiciary
Submitted by Kerry Naughton, Executive Director
February 26, 2018

Chair Barker, Vice-Chairs Olson and House Democratic Leader Williamson, and members of the Committee:

My name is Kerry Naughton and I am the Executive Director of Oregon Abuse Advocates & Survivors in Service (OAASIS). OAASIS is building a movement that empowers communities to prevent child sexual abuse and help survivors live full, healthy, joyful lives. Our base is comprised of thousands of Oregonians—people who were sexually abused as children, survivors’ family members and loved ones, and community members who care about the safety, health, and well-being of survivors of child sexual abuse. We are working towards a future where all people experience a loving childhood free of abuse and trauma; all relationships are based on equity and respect; and all people who have been harmed are supported on their healing journeys.

We are pleased to support SB 1562 A. This important legislation will ensure that more people experiencing lethal levels of violence can access safety and healing support.

While OAASIS is focused on ending child sexual abuse, we understand the incredible importance of family safety from all forms of violence. Ensuring that people who have been strangled by their partners or household members are safe is tantamount to ensuring safety for children in the family. Likewise, it is important to ensure that people who have strangled their partners or household members are held accountable and given support to make safe and healthy decisions in the future. As such, OAASIS supports the updated definition of strangulation and upgraded classification from a misdemeanor to Class C felony found in SB 1562 A.

We hope you’ll join us in supporting SB 1562 A. Thank you for your time and consideration.