



*From the desk of
Kathleen A. Taylor
State Senator Kathleen Taylor*

Oregon's Public Safety Leaders Urge Your YES Vote on SB 1562-A

Oregon Association Chiefs of Police, Oregon State Sheriffs Association and the Oregon District Attorneys Association urge your YES vote on SB 1562 as amended.

Strangulation is one of the most lethal forms of domestic violence. The cruelty of the offense and its potential effects upon a victim both physically and psychologically merit its categorization as a Felony in Oregon's criminal code.

As amended, SB 1562-A makes strangulation of a spouse, former spouse, unmarried parents of a minor child, or partners cohabitating or in a sexually intimate relationship with one another a Class C felony. Current law treats this crime simply as a Class A Misdemeanor.

While we acknowledge that SB 1562-A makes certain crime category reductions in the strangulation statute, we do believe that overall, the proposed changes in SB 1562-A are an important step in the recognition of the seriousness of this crime and will make a real difference in victim safety across Oregon.

The following question was posed to the Senate Judiciary Committee:

"What incentive does a woman have to report when the system refuses to take her strangulation seriously? What message are we sending to the offender and his victim with a misdemeanor?"

SB 1562-A answers this question. Strangulation is one of the most lethal forms of domestic violence and these offenders deserve serious penalties.

Strangulation should be a felony. Period.

SB 1562 makes other important updates to Oregon's strangulation statute including:

- Expands the definition of strangulation to include pressure on the victim's chest