



From the desk of  
*Jeff Barker*  
Rep. Barker

## **Oregon's Public Safety Leaders Urge Your YES Vote on SB 1562-B**

**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-B 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.

This bill 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-B 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-B makes other important updates to Oregon's strangulation statute including:

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