

From the desk of:

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Rep. Andrea Salinas

Representative Andrea Salinas, March 2, 2018

Duane Stark

Representative Duane Stark, March 2, 2018

Vote YES on SB 1562B

Through effective intervention in strangulation assault, including making it a felony, SB 1562B will keep victims safe, hold abusers accountable, and ultimately save lives by preventing future homicides by updating the definition of strangulation to (a) include impeding the normal breathing or circulation of the blood of another person by applying pressure to the chest and (b) includes a victim that is a family or household member as defined by ORS 135.230.

- Today we know unequivocally that strangulation is one of the most lethal forms of assault in domestic and sexual violence. In fact, research shows that strangulation is one of the best predictors of a future homicide in domestic violence cases. Survivors of strangulation in domestic violence cases are nearly 8 times more likely to be murdered by their abuser later.
- Even though there are often no externally visible signs of strangulation on survivors, the research overwhelmingly demonstrates that strangulation causes: acute thrombotic stroke, anoxic brain injury, brain damage, spinal cord injury, laryngeal injury and vertebral artery dissection, PTSD, depression, suicidal ideation, memory problems, anxiety, amnesia and psychosis, cervical spine injury, seizures, carotid artery hematoma, thyroid storm syndrome, as well as delayed death due to carotid artery dissection and respiratory complications such as pneumonia.
- Children can also be under recognized secondary victims of domestic and sexual violence. Exposure alone can be traumatic, and adds to the impact on families.
- New research shows us that mass murderers frequently have a history of strangling. According to the Alliance for Hope International, in 2017, 33 out of 44 officers killed in the line of duty in the U.S. were killed by men with a history of domestic violence in the public record – many of them with a strangulation assault history against women before they killed a police officer.

There is broad multi-disciplinary support for SB 1562B demonstrating the critical importance of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted by, Melissa Erlbaum, Executive Director, Clackamas Women's Services

We, the undersigned, stand together in support of SB 1562B





Center for HOPE & SAFETY



Illustration by M. M. Vail for Women's Equity Service



Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women



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