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On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: SB1070

I was in an abusive marriage. Luckily, I had a good job and was able to send my daughter to friends while I told him I was leaving. I thought he would kill me, but he didn't.

I worked in a women's prison in Alaska teaching therapeutic journal writing for five years.

The woman that stands out the most in my memory is an Alaska Native woman with a white father (this is important as these interracial marriages often form because of the abusive behavior of white men toward native women), and white police officers are likely to look the other way.

From early childhood she was raped by her father and her brother. At about 18, she couldn't take it anymore, and she shot her father with his own shotgun. She was serving a twenty- year sentence for murder. No one ever tried to help her. She was trapped.

Oregon is better than this. Have mercy on these women, at least in the sentencing process, and as part of their incarceration, psychotherapy should be required. Otherwise, they'll get out someday and be the brunt of some other abusing man who controls their every action because they know no alternatives.

I helped start the Battered Women's Shelter in Anchorage, Alaska in the seventies after a school teacher friend and the receptionist at my chiropractor were both shot and killed by their fiancès.

After a lifetime of fighting for women's rights, I thought outcomes for battered women would be better now. I'm disappointed in the absence of better legal protection for them.

Pass SB 1070.