

Submitter: Lily Barchers  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: SB1070

I am writing to support SB 1070. The criminal justice system exists to protect society from those who are a potential danger. Ideally, punishment will be determined by what is necessary to discourage future crime, and to keep society safe from those likely to be repeat offenders. Victims of domestic violence who commit crimes out of desperation are not as likely to be a danger to society in other contexts and so it would be inappropriate to sentence them the same. This bill does not excuse crime, it does not even create an affirmative offense---all it does is require the sentencing court to CONSIDER whether the circumstances of the crime should mitigate the sentence---it doesn't even require the sentence be lowered, only that the evidence be considered. This bill does no harm. It is not "soft on crime." All it does is provide some grace for victims of horrific violence who were forced to make unimaginable choices. I ask you to support this bill.