



## Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women

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### Support HB 4156 Modernizing Oregon's Anti-Stalking Law

HB 4156 will update and modernize Oregon's current stalking statutes to provide better protection for survivors and greater accountability for perpetrators:

- Updates current law to ensure that cyberstalking, electronic and internet harassment, “revenge porn” and other forms of stalking through the mis-use of modern day technology are included as prohibited behaviors;
- Improves the “felony upgrade” statute to include cases in which the perpetrator has a prior conviction for stalking; when the perpetrator is subject to another protection order; or when the stalking includes behavior that is a felony or is revenge porn or stalking by GPS;
- Increases the felony upgrade from a Class C felony to a Class B felony.

**Increased protection:** Since passage of Oregon's original stalking statute, we have entered the digital age. Victims of cyberstalking are more vulnerable than ever to financial, physical, and psychological harm via the mis-use of technology by perpetrators. Inclusion of cyberstalking in the list of prohibited behaviors ensures that our statute better protects victims from abuse.

**Increased accountability:** Stalking abuse is a serious and growing crime: Data show that [1 in every 6 women and 1 out of 19 men in the United States have been stalked](#) in their lifetime. Not only is stalking an indicator of other forms of violence, it has been [linked](#) to increased risk of femicide. Our youngest populations are at the most risk - [people aged 18-24 have the highest rate of stalking victimization](#). Increasing the sanction for serious stalking behavior is commensurate with the harm inflicted by this behavior.

Thank you to the bill's sponsors and we urge your support.