



April 30, 2025

Re: HB 2975A

To Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

On behalf of the **Oregon National Organization for Women (NOW) Legislative Task Force**, I urge your support of House Bill 2975.

Domestic violence should be taken seriously. Violent criminals should be charged with each crime they commit. Under current law, a defendant who strangles and punches their intimate partner in the same incident may receive only a single conviction and a lighter sentence than if those same crimes were committed against a stranger. Such violence in domestic cases should be treated at least as seriously as that in nondomestic cases due to the large number of fatalities and serious injuries in domestic violence cases.

A violent criminal should not be given an exception for committing multiple crimes merely because those crimes are committed against a partner. Multiple charges can be brought against a perpetrator for the act of walking into a bank with a gun. Robbery in the First Degree, Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, Trespassing, Possession of a Firearm by a Felon, and more can be stacked and given a separate sentence for each charge. The single act of carrying an illegal substance can result in multiple charges of Unlawful Possession of Controlled Substances, Unlawful Distribution of Controlled Substances, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Delivery of a Controlled Substance, and more. Cases of domestic violence should not be made an exception nor should they be treated with less severity.

Prosecutors should have the discretion to charge defendants for each and every crime committed. Oregon NOW **supports stronger sentencing for domestic violence offenders**. Abusers should be held accountable for crimes committed against their partners. We urge you to make a strong statement that **violence against women - in any circumstance - will not be tolerated**.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Bell & Tamara Miller

Member, Oregon NOW Legislative Task Force