



Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence

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## Testimony in Support of SB 1550

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February 3, 2026

To whom it may concern,

My name is Kristen Dewey and I am the Interim Executive Director of the Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence (CARDV). Before I held this position, I served in an advocate role working directly with victims of domestic and sexual violence for the past 19 years.

I am writing on behalf of CARDV and all of the survivors: past, present, and future, that we serve in Linn and Benton Counties. I urge you to support the passing of SB 1550 because every life matters, every victim deserves justice and every abuser should be held accountable for what they've done.

More than a third of Oregonians will be victims of Intimate Partner Violence in their lifetime. Within domestic violence relationships, strangulation is the ultimate tactic of power and control that abusers use to perpetrate their crime. A little known fact about strangulation is that at least 50% of the time, there are no visible injuries left behind. There is a national "Hidden Homicides" movement happening to draw attention to cases where victims were staged to give the impression of suicide or accidental death but what actually happened was homicide, and it shouldn't be allowed to remain hidden.

The passage of SB 1550 would allow investigators to ask more questions, dig deeper, and truly solve the crime that is before them. Bringing justice to these victims and their families can never replace what was lost, but hopefully, by holding more abusers accountable, we can make our communities a safer place.

Please do what you can to make SB 1550 a reality in Oregon.

Sincerely,

**Kristen Dewey**

Interim Executive Director, CARDV

-This testimony is in honor of Kelsey Noelle Harris-