



**TO: Sen. Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Sen. Kim Thatcher, Vice Chair
Members of Senate Judiciary Committee**

FR: Oregon District Attorneys Association

RE: SB 1550 – Support w/ Amendments

February 4, 2026

The Oregon District Attorney's Association (ODAA) supports efforts to assist law enforcement and medical examiners to identify deaths reported as suicide or accident when there is a history of domestic violence, and to require further investigation prior to making any findings as to the cause and manner of death. Nationally, the handling of these cases has demonstrated a systemic lack of adequate awareness of 10 identified red flags that may suggest that the death was in fact a homicide that had been staged or altered by the decedent's domestic partner to appear as a suicide or accident.

Accurately determining how someone died is critical for family members, public safety, public health and public trust. SB 1550 relies on nationally recognized flags as indicators that a death may be suspicious and obligates law enforcement, the assigned death investigators, and medical examiners to conduct further investigation when three or more red flags are present. If those flags are present, this measure would require an interview with family members of the decedent that have relevant information about the history of domestic violence.

ODAA believes this measure will empower investigating law enforcement and district attorneys, as well as the medical examiner, to request an autopsy when a reported suicide or accidental death investigation reveals at least 3 red flags, and the decedent has a history as a victim of domestic violence. This measure also gives a voice to known family members of the decedent by providing a process to obtain records, photos and videos of the investigation at such time as the medical examiner and law enforcement have closed their investigation. The timely disclosure of these records may allow the family of the decedent to seek an independent review of the manner and cause of death.

SB 1550 provides law enforcement, death investigators, and medical examiners awareness of the necessary tools and evidence-based detection criteria that necessitates further investigation in certain reported suicides and accidents when there is a history of domestic violence. This will ensure that all the proper information is collected from the family of the decedent, as well as evidence from the scene, prior to a finding of the cause and manner of death of the decedent is made. SB 1550 will provide information to the public, as well as law enforcement, and medical examiners, about the relevance of the red flags in such investigations. SB 1550 is an important step towards ensuring justice for the victims of domestic violence-related deaths and their families.