

Center for HOPE & SAFETY

February 4, 2026

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

On behalf of the **Center for Hope & Safety** we are submitting testimony in support of SB 1550.

Founded in 1973 as the Mid-Valley Women's Crisis Service, the Center for Hope & Safety supports survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, elder abuse and human trafficking.

Last year we had over 10,000 calls to our crisis hotline, and we provided over 17,000 nights of emergency shelter to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking in Marion and Polk Counties. We also have a housing program that has a 96% success rate in assisting families into permanent housing.

We know that the most dangerous time for a survivor of domestic violence is when they leave their abuser. This is when the likelihood of their murder is the highest, because it is one of the most significant losses of power and control by the abuser. **We also know that it is 7 times more likely that a victim of domestic violence will be murdered if they've been the victim of non-fatal strangulation in the past.** SB 1550 creates a much-needed framework to identify 10 red flags in suspicious death cases for victims with a prior history of domestic violence.

At the Center for Hope & Safety we sit with survivors daily who have been strangled, sexually assaulted, stalked and terrorized by intimate partners who have controlled almost every aspect of their lives. **We know that abusers often have multiple victims over their lifetime, and we believe that this bill will help hold them accountable for their abuse and prevent future homicides.**

Thank you for this important legislation and for seeking justice for the survivors of domestic violence and child abuse. It means the world to the people we serve and to our volunteers and staff.

Sincerely,



Ashley Carson, Executive Director
Center for Hope & Safety