



February 4, 2026

Letter in Support of SB1550 (Blouin/Nosse) – Hidden Homicides

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

We are family members who have lost loved ones as a result of domestic violence. Each one of us has lost a daughter, a sister, a brother, or a mother under circumstances that can only be described as a suspicious death and likely a homicide. Each of their deaths was staged to look like a suicide or an accident, and all the cases were poorly investigated. Only one case has ended in a murder conviction; some remain open, while others have been closed by law enforcement.

We represent the states of California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, and Oregon. We have collectively come together to become the VOICES for VICTIMS of HIDDEN HOMICIDES and are currently working with the Alliance for HOPE International as part of their Justice Project. Every week, the Alliance or we continue to receive calls and emails from grieving family members who have lost a loved one under similar suspicious circumstances, most of which have been staged to look like a suicide by hanging after a death by strangulation.

Before we invite yet another family member to our group, and another homicide gets staged as a suicide or an accident, we strongly urge you to support SB1550 sponsored by Senator Gelser Blouin and Representative Nosse and co-sponsored by Senators Meek, Prozanski, Broadman, Weber and Representatives Dobson, McDonald, and Walters at the request of Kellee Harris and Shelly and Bob Stager. This bill not only honors their daughters but so many others across the United States. This is now a matter of urgency, and we pray this bill will become legislation that can take effect the minute it is signed by the Governor.

This bill will bring awareness about staged crime scenes, that suicides with a history of domestic violence should be treated as a suspicious death, provide 10 important factors to consider for a suspicious death, provide more rights to family members of lost loved ones, and provide the necessary professionals who conduct these important death investigations. It will also serve as a model for other states that desperately needed this law more than 20 years ago. With these legislative improvements and guidance, more professionals will be trained to look for the signs of a staged crime scene. They will be able to alert death investigators and medical examiners about a suspicious death and educate families about the necessary steps they can take to ensure all their questions are answered, that the truth is discovered, and justice is obtained. It will also reduce the amount of trauma we experience by not having a law like this in place.

Please support SB1550. It will be one of the most important pieces of legislation for victims of domestic violence and their families since the federal Violence Against Women Act in 1994.

VHH@allianceforhope.com

HOPE FOR SURVIVORS AND JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF HIDDEN HOMICIDES

VOICES for VICTIMS of Hidden Homicides

Kellee Harris

Kellee Harris for daughter, Kelsey Harris (31), in Brownsville, Oregon

Shelly Stager

Shelly Stager for daughter, Kaattie Stager (26), in Harrisburg, Oregon

Patricia Hunter

Patricia Hunter for daughter, Joanna Hunter (36), in Vacaville, California

Susan Altman

Susan Altman for sister, Stacy Feldman (44), in Denver, Colorado

Mary Beth Steed

Mary Beth Steed for daughter, Alysse Steed (34), in Port St. Lucie, Florida

Tracy Dettling

Tracy Dettling for daughter, Heather Mayer (33), in St. Paul, Minnesota

Cynthia T. Caswell

Cindy Caswell for daughter, Libby Caswell (21), in Independence, Missouri

Robin Altman

Robin Altman for mother, Mary Ann Hayes (53), in Northfield, Illinois, and brother, Steven Altman (21), in Chicago, Illinois

Karen Kelly Duncanson *Rob J. Duncanson III*

Karen Kelly Duncanson and Rob Duncanson III for daughter, Megan Duncanson (29), in Davis, California



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