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Oregon Senate Votes to Increase Penalty for Strangulation

SALEM, OR. - Today, the Oregon Senate unanimously voted to increase the penalty for strangulation by passing [Senate Bill 1562](#). The bill makes strangulation a Class C felony if the victim is a family or household member.

"Strangulation is a very personal and violent crime, akin to attempted murder, and our laws should reflect that," said Senator Bill Hansell (R-Athena). "This is a common-sense update with broad bipartisan support, and I am proud to have worked with Senator Taylor and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle on this important piece of legislation."

According to [Clackamas Women's Services](#), strangulation is one of the most lethal forms of domestic violence, and a man who strangles a woman once is 750% more likely to later kill her.

"Near-fatal and non-fatal strangulation can leave the victim with long term medical effects," said Senator Chuck Thomsen (R-Hood River). "Recognizing this crime as a felony is an important step in expanding victim safety."

"The amount of trauma a person goes through physically and mentally when subjected to strangulation is indescribable," said Senator Kim Thatcher (R-Keizer). "Classifying that level of violence and trauma as a Class A misdemeanor is shocking, and we are changing that."

The bill will now head to the House of Representatives for further consideration.

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