



Missoula County Sheriff's Dept
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3/27/07
486
C.C. Ibsen
Captain
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Missoula County Sheriff's
Department

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20 Feb 07

Chairman Laslovich and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I have been a Law Enforcement Officer for more than 34 years. I was an officer with the Missoula Police Department for a little over 20 years. I then moved to the Missoula County Sheriff's Department and I currently command the Uniformed Patrol Division of the Missoula County Sheriff's Department. The first 31 years of my career was spent in uniform and on the road as a patrol officer and first responder. I have responded to and handled hundreds, and more likely to thousands of assault calls.

Senate Bill 486 contains a much needed change for Montana. Under the current law, a victim can be terrified that he/she will be seriously injured, perhaps maimed but the offense is only charged as a misdemeanor level assault. I have responded to many strangulation calls. In strangulation, the line between injury and death is very slight. Under current law, offenders who assault by strangulation are generally charged with a misdemeanor. Other Montana laws which cover assaults prohibit and punish both an assault and a threatened assault, which is credible. Our aggravated assault law punishes offenders who cause serious bodily injury but fails to address an offender who credibly and convincingly threatens a victim with serious bodily injury. Senate Bill 486 will appropriately address this gap in our criminal law.

Please vote to pass and enact Senate Bill 486.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.C. Ibsen", written over a horizontal line.