



BILL NO: Senate Bill 858
TITLE: Revenge Porn - Civil Action and Reporting Requirement
COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings
HEARING DATE: February 29, 2024
POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition that brings together victim service providers, allied professionals, and concerned individuals for the common purpose of reducing intimate partner and family violence and its harmful effects on our citizens. **MNADV urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 858.**

Revenge porn is one of many abusive tactics of power and control present in domestic violence. In one study 71% of victims report that a current or previous romantic partner had posted a nude image.¹ Senate Bill 858 authorizes a person to bring a civil action for the nonconsensual distribution of a visual representation of the person with the person's intimate parts exposed or while the person is engaged in sexual activity. Among the types of relief available to a victim in a civil action is an injunction.

Revenge porn can be used to threaten a victim, for retaliation, or to simply cause a victim harm. A victim can be coerced into creating an image, the image could have been taken without their consent, or an image could be consensual only for it to be subsequently used to victimize by its distribution without their consent. A victim of revenge porn can experience trauma and psychological harm in addition to economic harm due to the unlawful sharing of images. Senate Bill 858 also includes a definition of “deep fakes” which reflects the evolving nature of technology and how victims can be harmed.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report on SB 858.**

¹ <https://www.strangulationtraininginstitute.com/revenge-porn-the-latest-research-and-law-enforcement-efforts/>
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