

BILL NO: Senate Bill 858
TITLE: Revenge Porn – Civil Action and Reporting Requirement
COMMITTEE: Judiciary
HEARING DATE: April 01, 2024
POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Women's Law Center of Maryland is dedicated to ensuring the physical safety, economic security, and bodily autonomy of women throughout the State. The clients that we represent have all experienced intimate partner violence, which may include physical, mental, and sexual abuse.

SB 858 aims to regulate the creation and sending of non-consensual sexual imagery created using artificial intelligence. This has become known as deepfake porn, which is defined as an image or recording that has been convincingly altered and manipulated to misrepresent someone as doing or saying something that was not actually done or said. The use of this technology has become a tool used by domestic abusers to harass, embarrass, and humiliate their victims. So far, 10 states have enacted legislation to regulate this activity. Maryland currently has a revenge porn statute which does not specifically address this type of activity. SB858 will add the definition for deepfake images and non-consensual sexual imagery for the purpose of legislative regulation.

The Women's Law Center of Maryland believes that this bill will provide relief to many victims that have been targeted and humiliated by their abusers with AI-generated images of them engaging in non-consensual sexual imagery. For all these reasons we urge a favorable report on SB 858.

The Women's Law Center of Maryland is a non-profit legal services organization whose mission is to ensure the physical safety, economic security, and bodily autonomy of women in Maryland. Our mission is advanced through direct legal services, information and referral hotlines, and statewide advocacy.