

To the Maryland General Assembly,

My name is Jasheen Kaur, and I am a student at Clarksburg High School in Maryland. I am a supporter of the Revenge Porn – Civil Action and Criminal Offense Bill, which would allow victims of digital sexual harassment to take legal action against those who create and distribute intimate images and videos without consent.

In a highly digital era, artificial intelligence and deepfake technology have introduced a new means of sexual harassment, vocal manipulation, and exploitation. Just recently at Pikesville High School a teacher was the victim of a racist deepfake that distorted her voice and resulted in a temporary arrest. In other parts of our country deepfakes are even being used to sexualize teachers, classmates, celebrities, and political officials.

As a young woman I am scared every day for the rate of sexual assault in our country is only growing. The threat of digital revenge porn is now an added fear, similarly violating everyday people's dignity in ways they cannot control. The accessibility of AI and these tools make it all too easy for perpetrators to exploit these victims and get away without facing consequences. It would be a serious mistake to let this session go on without this bill being passed. The lack of consequence in response to deepfakes sets a precedent that diminishes the importance of consent.

This bill is an important step toward protecting individuals from digital exploitation. By allowing victims to pursue civil action and criminal charges, it helps restore dignity and control over our digital identities. As a student who takes part in the digital world and navigates its complexities, I urge you to pass this bill to protect the rights of all individuals.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jasheen Kaur