
BILL NO:	House Bill 0663
TITLE:	Civil Actions - Sexual Deepfake Representations and Revenge Porn
COMMITTEE:	Judiciary
HEARING DATE:	February 19, 2025
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.

House Bill 0663 aims to regulate the distribution of non-consensual sexual imagery created using various mediums (video, photo, film, etc.) as well as computer-generated visual representations. 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. Nonconsensual intimate deepfakes are proliferating rapidly, overwhelmingly targeting women and especially girls. Intimate deepfakes, falsely but convincingly depicting people naked or engaged in sexual acts, can cause serious harm, with victims reporting experiencing significant emotional consequences and trauma, as well as damage to their reputations and careers.

So far, 23 states have enacted legislation to regulate this activity. HB 0663 will allow a victim to bring and maintain a civil action for defamation against someone distributing their computer-generated likeness in this regard.

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 HB 0663.

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.