



House of Ruth Maryland

Domestic Violence Legal Clinic

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Bill No.: House Bill 803
Bill Title: Revenge Porn – Computer Generated Visual Representations
Committee: Judiciary
Hearing Date: February 18, 2025
Position: **FAV**

House of Ruth is a non-profit organization providing shelter, counseling, and legal services to victims of domestic violence throughout the State of Maryland. House of Ruth has offices in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Prince George's County, and Montgomery County. House Bill 803 would expand the definition of revenge porn to include a broader range of images, including computer-generated visual representations or "deep fakes" and similar depictions. **We urge the House Judiciary Committee to favorably report on House Bill 803.**

Revenge porn is an insidious act that can have devastating consequences for its victims, including victims of intimate partner violence whose abusive partners may use revenge porn as a means of intimidation and control. With the rise of artificial intelligence, it has become all too easy for perpetrators to create and disseminate sexually explicit images even when they do not have actual photographs or videos of their victims. Computer-generated sexual imagery has the same devastating impact on victims as genuine images. House Bill 803 would expand the revenge porn statute to include computer-generated visual representations, thereby offering greater remedies to victims of these heinous acts.

It is House of Ruth's understanding that House Bill 803 is similar to other bills that are before the General Assembly this year and urges the Committee to create both civil and criminal remedies using whatever methods it deems appropriate.

The House of Ruth urges the House Judiciary Committee to report favorably on House Bill 803.