



TESTIMONY FOR HB1248

Revenge Pornography and Intimate Visual Depictions – Prohibition and Removal

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Woorman

Committee: Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB1248 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our members want to stop the severe emotional, reputational, and financial harm to victims caused by revenge porn. HB1248 addresses the issue of non-consensual sharing of intimate visual depictions, commonly known as revenge pornography.

Specifically, the bill requires online platforms to establish a process for individuals or their representatives to notify the platform about non-consensual intimate visual depictions and request their removal. Platforms must comply with these requests within 48 hours and maintain data logs to ensure accountability. Additionally, the bill strengthens existing laws by expanding the prohibition against revenge pornography to include new forms of digital content which could include AI-generated deepfakes, augmented reality filters, NFTs, ephemeral posts like Instagram stories, and short-form videos on platforms like TikTok.

For Marylanders, this legislation provides critical protections against the exploitation and abuse associated with revenge pornography. It empowers victims by giving them a clear and efficient process to remove harmful content and hold platforms accountable. By addressing gaps in current laws, the bill ensures that Maryland remains at the forefront of combating digital abuse.

Ultimately, HB1248 promotes a safer and more respectful online environment. It deters malicious behavior, supports victims in reclaiming their dignity, and reinforces Maryland's commitment to protecting its residents from the harms of digital exploitation.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition wholeheartedly supports this bill and recommends a FAVORABLE report in committee.