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STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Testimony in Support of House Bill No. 5421, *An Act Concerning Unlawful Dissemination of Intimate Images that are Digitally Altered or Created Through the Use of Artificial Intelligence*
Judiciary Committee
Monday, March 11, 2024

I thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of House Bill No. 5421, *An Act Concerning Unlawful Dissemination of Intimate Images that are Digitally Altered or Created Through the Use of Artificial Intelligence*. The bill seeks to update the existing statute regarding unlawful dissemination of intimate images to incorporate intimate images that are digitally altered or created through the use of artificial intelligence.

The bill appropriately seeks to update legislation enacted in 2015 that first criminalized what is commonly referred to as “revenge porn.” I was one of the authors and a lead champion of that original legislation in 2015 as then-chair of the Judiciary Committee. That law made unauthorized dissemination of intimate images in an attempt to harm or harass a crime.

Back in 2015, we discussed how technology had enabled a new, heinous form of abuse and harassment. Private, intimate images taken during the course of a consensual relationship were being shared online by ex-partners as a means of control, harassment, and revenge. We heard from domestic violence advocates how critically important it was that our laws keep pace with new, evolving forms of internet-facilitated abuse.

That remains true today. Artificial intelligence has now made it possible to create and alter intimate, sexual images. Abusive ex-partners may now use artificial intelligence to manufacture and spread false and deeply hurtful images. Whether the images are real or artificial, the intent and result is to harm and humiliate a victim.

Our laws must keep pace with these concerning technological developments. I strongly support this legislation, and praise the Committee for ensuring that our laws to protect against intimate-partner violence and abuse remain as strong and relevant as possible.

For additional information, please contact Cara Passaro, Chief of Staff to the Attorney General at cara.passaro@ct.gov.