

REPRESENTATIVE ANNESSA HARTMAN (SHE/HER)  
HOUSE DISTRICT 40



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Wallan and Chotzen, Members of the Committee,

My name is Annessa Hartman, and I have the honor of representing House District 40, which includes Gladstone, Oregon City, and parts of North Clackamas County. I'm writing in support of HB 2974, which closes a dangerous loophole in our child protection laws and ensures that those who exploit children are held fully accountable.

Oregon's current statute prohibits the sharing of child pornography, but a troubling gap in the law leaves room for exploitation. The statute defines child pornography as the sharing of "lewd" depictions of sexual or intimate parts, but it does not clearly define what constitutes "lewd." This omission has been exploited by offenders who distribute images of children's genitalia and argue that the images do not meet the legal threshold for lewdness, allowing them to evade prosecution.

HB 2974's forthcoming amendment closes this loophole by explicitly defining sexually explicit conduct to include "the uncovered genitals, pubic area, buttocks, or female nipples of a child." This ensures that images of a child's exposed body parts are recognized as criminally exploitive, eliminating any ambiguity in the law.

Additionally, HB 2974 recognizes the significant power imbalance when an adult exploits a minor and appropriately increases the severity of the crime at sentencing when committed against a minor by someone more than three years older than them.

The bill is undergoing a rigorous stakeholder review and negotiation process, ensuring that it is both comprehensive and legally sound, and as such, it will have at least one amendment to consider.

Nevertheless, I urge you to stand with survivors by supporting HB 2974 and closing this loophole, making it clear that Oregon will not tolerate the distribution of explicit images of children under any circumstances. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annessa Hartman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "H".

Representative Annessa Hartman  
House District 40 – Gladstone, Oregon City, North Clackamas County