



February 25, 2025

House of Representatives
Oregon
House Committee on Judiciary
The Honorable, Jason Kropf, Chair
The Honorable, Willy Chotzen, Vice-Chair
The Honorable, Kim Wallan

Dear Members of the Committee:

Public Citizen submits this testimony in strong support of HB 2299.

On behalf of our over 17,200 members and activists in Oregon, Public Citizen encourages the House Committee on Judiciary to advance HB 2299, a legislative proposal regulating intimate deepfakes. Deepfakes are fabricated content (videos, images, or audio) created with the use of generative artificial intelligence (A.I.) that depict a person saying or doing things that they never actually said or did in real life. An intimate deepfake is a fabricated depiction of an individual nude and/or engaging in sexual acts.

There has been an exponential rise in the circulation of intimate deepfakes in recent years. In 2023, there were over 95,000 deepfake videos circulated online¹. Deepfake fraud worldwide has increased by more than 10 times from 2022 to 2023². Currently, 98 percent of all deepfakes circulated online are intimate deepfakes³. On Telegram alone, there are at least 50 bots that claim to create explicit photos or videos of people with only a couple of clicks. These bots have over 4 million monthly users combined⁴.

It is worth noting, the vast majority (99%) of those victimized by intimate deepfakes are women and girls. A study conducted by ESET UK found that 57% of those under 18 years of age are concerned about becoming victims to intimate deepfakes and 10% of individuals reported being a victim of intimate deepfakes, knowing a victim, or both⁵.

¹ Home Security Heroes. (n.d.). 2023 State of Deepfakes: Realities, Threats, and Impact. Retrieved from Home Security Heroes: <https://www.homesecurityheroes.com/state-of-deepfakes/>

² Cruz, B. (2024, September 26). 2024 Deepfakes Guide and Statistics. Retrieved from Security.org: <https://www.security.org/resources/deepfake-statistics/>

³ Home Security Heroes. (n.d.). 2023 State of Deepfakes: Realities, Threats, and Impact. Retrieved from Home Security Heroes: <https://www.homesecurityheroes.com/state-of-deepfakes/>

⁴ Burgess, M. (2024, October 15). Millions of People Are Using Abusive AI 'Nudify' Bots on Telegram. Retrieved from WIRED: <https://www.wired.com/story/ai-deepfake-nudify-bots-telegram/>

⁵ ESET. (2024, March 20). Nearly two-thirds of women worry about being a victim of deepfake pornography, ESET UK Research reveals. Retrieved from ESET UK: https://www.eset.com/uk/about/newsroom/press-releases/nearly-two-thirds-of-women-worry-about-being-a-victim-of-deepfake-pornography-eset-uk-research-reveals/?srsltid=AfmBOoot8w-diFI9FC_dAla2a9HU3RDMgJ_HxHWjLwJAp99mNmyrFUWB

Intimate deepfakes cause serious harm to innocent people⁶. Victims report experiencing significant emotional consequences and trauma⁷, as well as damage to their reputation and career. In October 2023, more than 30 teen girls at a highschool in New Jersey were violated when A.I. generated intimate images of them were circulated around their school⁸. These girls reported feeling humiliated, exposed, and traumatized.

Intimate deepfakes can be used for monetary extortion as well. The FBI recently warned the public of “sextortion” schemes⁹, in which intimate deepfakes are used to extort victims for monetary gain. In addition to causing financial loss, victims report experiencing severe mental health issues and dozens have taken their own lives¹⁰.

Recent advances in the realm of A.I. have made it such that tools needed to create deepfakes are now widely accessible. It only takes a few dollars and a few minutes to create a deepfake¹¹. Meanwhile, the quality of deepfake technology is improving rapidly, making it harder for the average person to detect a deepfake. This problem will only continue to grow exponentially as technology quickly advances.

Without regulation, anyone can fall victim to this traumatizing form of exploitation. New legislation like HB 2299 which regulates the circulation of intimate deepfakes, is critical to protecting innocent people.

Thirty one states have already passed legislation regulating the circulation of intimate deepfakes, and numerous other states are working to pass similar legislation. This legislation has broad bipartisan support, with Republicans and Democrats alike introducing and supporting these bills.

Public Citizen strongly urges the House Committee on Judiciary to move HB 2299 forward in order to protect innocent people.

⁶ Nelson, H. (2024, February 7). Taylor Swift and the Dangers of Deepfake Pornography. Retrieved from National Sexual Violence Resource Center:

<https://www.nsvrc.org/blogs/feminism/taylor-swift-and-dangers-deepfake-pornography>

⁷ Nickert, J. (2023, November 13). The Damage Caused by Deepfake Porn. Retrieved from HealthNews:

<https://healthnews.com/mental-health/anxiety-depression/the-damage-caused-by-deepfake-porn/>

⁸ Blanco, A. (2023, November 3) Teen boys at New Jersey school accused of creating AI deepfake nudes of female classmates. Retrieved from Independent UK:

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/deepfake-nude-westfield-high-school-nj-b2440793.html>

⁹ Gans, J. (2023, June 6). FBI warns of ‘deepfakes’ in sextortion schemes. Retrieved from The Hill:

<https://thehill.com/policy/cybersecurity/4037204-fbi-warns-of-deepfakes-in-sextortion-schemes/>

¹⁰ Siemaszko, C. (2022, May 8). "Sextortionists" are increasingly targeting young men for money. The outcome can be deadly. Retrieved from NBC News:

<https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/tech-news/sextortionists-are-increasingly-targeting-young-men-money-out-come-can-rcna27281>

¹¹ Bond, S. (2023, March 23). It takes a few dollars and 8 minutes to create a deepfake. And that's only the start. Retrieved from NPR:

[https://www.npr.org/2023/03/23/1165146797/it-takes-a-few-dollars-and-8-minutes-to-create-a-deepfake-and-thats-only-the-start#:~:text=Shannon%20Bond-.it%20takes%20a%20few%20dollars%20and%208%20minutes%20to%20create.And%20that's%20only%20the%20start&text=Ethan%20Mollick-,Ethan%20Mollick%2C%20a%20business%20professor%20at%20the%20University%20of%20Pennsylvania's,video%20of%20himself%20\(right\).](https://www.npr.org/2023/03/23/1165146797/it-takes-a-few-dollars-and-8-minutes-to-create-a-deepfake-and-thats-only-the-start#:~:text=Shannon%20Bond-.it%20takes%20a%20few%20dollars%20and%208%20minutes%20to%20create.And%20that's%20only%20the%20start&text=Ethan%20Mollick-,Ethan%20Mollick%2C%20a%20business%20professor%20at%20the%20University%20of%20Pennsylvania's,video%20of%20himself%20(right).)

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2299.

Respectfully Submitted,
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