

REPRESENTATIVE ANNESSA HARTMAN (SHE/HER)
HOUSE DISTRICT 40



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Chotzen and Wallan,

My name is Annessa Hartman, and I have the privilege of serving as the State Representative for House District 40, which includes Oregon City, Gladstone, and North Clackamas County. I'm writing in strong support of HB 2299 because the law must keep pace with technology to protect victims of a new and deeply harmful form of abuse.

We live in a world where artificial intelligence is advancing faster than most of us can even comprehend. What once seemed like science fiction—the ability to fabricate realistic images, videos, and audio—has become an everyday reality. But with that advancement comes a dark and deeply disturbing side: the rise of AI-generated intimate deepfakes.

We know that unlawful dissemination of intimate images, also called "revenge porn," has been used as a tool of abuse for years. It is a devastating weapon of humiliation and control, designed to rob victims of their dignity, their privacy, and their sense of security. But with the rise of AI-generated deepfakes, this harm has reached a new and horrifying level.

Now, a perpetrator doesn't even need an explicit image of their victim. They only need a simple, everyday picture—something as innocent as a LinkedIn profile photo, a school yearbook image, or a picture from social media. In a matter of seconds, with tools that are readily available online, AI can strip away clothing, creating a fabricated but disturbingly realistic image of someone nude. And just like that, their body has been taken from them—without their consent, without their knowledge, and without any recourse.

I want you to think about what it would feel like to wake up one morning and find that a fabricated image of you was spreading across the internet. Imagine your face placed onto the body of someone else, made to look as though you are engaging in acts you never consented to. Imagine your colleagues seeing it. Your family. Your children. Imagine the gut-wrenching panic, the helplessness, the shame, and the profound violation of realizing that, no matter how many times you say, "That's not me," the damage is already done.

This is not hypothetical. This is happening to thousands of people—almost exclusively women and girls—right now. And without clear laws in place, victims are being told there's nothing that can be done. That is unacceptable.

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HB 2299 strengthens Oregon’s laws to recognize this modern threat. By adding “a digitally created, manipulated or altered depiction that is reasonably realistic” to the definition of unlawful dissemination of an intimate image, the bill ensures that victims of AI-generated deepfakes have the same protections as victims of traditional revenge porn.

The bill also fixes another glaring loophole. Right now, to prosecute the crime, the law requires that the perpetrator act with the specific intent to harass, humiliate, or injure their victim. But in many cases, abusers will claim that they had no specific intent to do any of those things. They will say they shared the image to brag to their friends, for sexual purposes, or as a joke. They will say they didn’t mean to hurt anyone, and because the law as written sets such a high burden for proving intent, many victims have no recourse—no protection, no accountability, no justice.

HB 2299 closes this loophole by creating a second-degree “unlawful dissemination of intimate images” violation that accounts for perpetrators who are aware of and consciously disregard the substantial and unjustifiable risk of harm their actions will cause.

HB 2299 is bipartisan, common-sense legislation, and I want to take a moment to recognize and thank Representative Mannix for his leadership as the chief sponsor of this bill, as well as the many stakeholders we have worked with to craft a comprehensive, effective policy response.

Together, we are sending a clear message that we stand with the victims who have been violated in this way—the women and girls disproportionately targeted, the parents who fear for their daughters, the teachers, nurses, service workers, and students whose lives have been shattered by images they never consented to.

I urge your support for HB 2299 because while we can’t undo the harm already done, we can prevent more victims from suffering the same fate. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annessa Hartman".

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