

Center for **HOPE & SAFETY**

February 28, 2025

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

On behalf of the Center for Hope & Safety we are submitting testimony in support of HB 2299, relating to unlawful dissemination of intimate images. Thank you for considering this testimony.



Operating since 1973, Center for Hope & Safety's mission is to provide a safe environment for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking and to educate the public about the issues surrounding victimization. Our program responds directly to the needs identified by survivors of violence and our philosophy reflects the survivors' right to receive information about abuse and their right to make their own choices from a wide range of options.

Last year we supported over 4,100 individuals and provided over 10,000 nights of shelter to survivors and their children in Marion and Polk Counties.

It is crucial that our laws keep pace with the rapid advancements in digital communications to ensure justice, protection, and support for those affected. Currently, the law only prohibits the use of actual photos of the victim resulting in significant challenges in seeking justice. HB 2299 will close this dangerous loophole and hold perpetrators accountable by expanding the definition of an 'image' to include AI-generated imagery.

Sometimes referred to as "deepfakes," AI generated or digitally altered photos or videos that are used as revenge porn, are incredibly devastating and traumatizing to survivors. Non-consensual sharing of intimate images is used to manipulate, intimidate, blackmail, and harass victims in addition to extorting for financial gain. As a result, survivors experience significant emotional distress, threats to physical safety and wellbeing, loss financially and live in constant fear of these images resurfacing. With that, we are in strong support of this bill to capture what is happening in our communities and for those affected to have options in seeking support and justice.

Sincerely,

**Ashley Carson, Executive Director
Center for Hope & Safety**