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Oregon House Legislators Tackle Cyberflashing with Bipartisan Support

SALEM, Ore. - Today, the Oregon House passed [HB 3766](#) with bipartisan support in a major step toward creating legal repercussions for sending unsolicited lewd images.

The bill creates a framework for people who receive nude pictures they didn't ask for on their phone or computer to pursue civil penalties against the sender. The bill would allow the plaintiff to sue in civil court for up to \$10,000 in damages. The law would not apply to images sent by people under the age of 18 at the time the image is sent.

"Receiving unsolicited nude photos is violating, harmful, and triggering and this law will provide survivors with material damages without creating new criminal penalties. We have long thought of rape culture as in-person sexual violence, but in the age of technology, our personal devices can be weaponized against us to perpetuate sexual harassment," said **Rep. Farrah Chaichi (D-Beaverton/Aloha)**. "The fact that we are just now putting laws on the books to prevent cyberflashing is a testament to how much work we have left to do. This bill is a step toward modernizing how we handle harassment."

According to US sample data from March 2022, nearly half of the women surveyed said they had received an unsolicited lewd image, with one in three of all the respondents having received one within the last month¹.

"Cyberflashing is digital exposure—it's the modern version of someone flashing you on the street, but now it happens in your home, on your phone, without warning," said **Rep. Annessa**

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/13/style/cyberflashing-bumble-payton-iheme.html>

Hartman (D-Oregon City). "This bill gives survivors a way to push back and say: this is not okay, and it never was."

Cyberflashing deeply affects women, with recent research suggesting that 70% of the women sharing that they were unhappy to have received such images². These images leave a lasting impact on victims, their mental health, and their feeling of physical safety.

"Everyone deserves to feel safe—not just in public spaces, but on their personal devices. HB 3766 is a long overdue response to a new form of an old problem. By creating a civil path for those who receive unwanted lewd images, we're standing up to rape culture and protecting the dignity of Oregonians—especially women and girls," said **Rep. Trần (D-NE & SE Portland)**.

"This bill is part of a comprehensive effort by the Oregon Legislature to fight back against abusive sexual harassment of people, especially women, through use of electronic media," said **Rep. Mannix (R-Salem)**. "We are providing more tools for victims to fight back. This sends a message that this kind of conduct is totally wrong and will not be tolerated."

The bill now moves to the Senate for further consideration.

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² <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/13/style/cyberflashing-bumble-payton-iheme.html>