

SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Press Contact:

Office of Rep. Chaichi, Rep.FarrahChaichi@OregonLegislature.com Office of Sen. Gelser Blouin, Sen.SaraGelser@oregonlegislature.gov Office of Sen. Thatcher, Sen.KimThatcher@oregonlegislature.gov

Oregon Legislators Pass Anti-Cyberflashing Legislation with Bipartisan Support

SALEM, OR – Senate passage of House Bill 3766 puts Oregon one step closer to creating legal repercussions for sending unsolicited lewd images. The measure passed today with bipartisan support; the vote was unanimous.

The bill creates a framework for people to pursue civil penalties when someone sends them nude pictures they didn't ask for on their phone or computer, allowing plaintiffs 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.

"For far too long, people, particularly women and girls, who receive unsolicited nude images have had little to no recourse after being digitally flashed, but that ends now," 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 to protect survivors. This bill is a step toward modernizing how we handle harassment."

In a 2022 survey, nearly half of the women responding said they had received an unsolicited lewd image, with one in three of all the respondents having received one within the last month.

"Sending someone unsolicited nude images is no different than exposing oneself in public," said **Senator Sara Gelser Blouin (D – Corvallis, Albany & S. Salem)**. "It is imperative that we treat cyberflashing with the seriousness it warrants and give survivors a path toward reparation."

Data on cyberflashing says the vast majority—70 percent—of women who receive the unsolicited images are unhappy to get such images. These images often make the recipients feel violated, unsafe, or harassed. Survivors of sexual assault are particularly affected.

"Cyberflashing is harassment and should be treated as such. For women who receive these images, the material impact is the same as being flashed or harassed in any other context," said **Senator Kim Thatcher (R – Keizer)**.

House Bill 3766 now advances to Governor Tina Kotek's desk for signing.