



## SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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### NEWS RELEASE

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#### **Senate cracks down on revenge porn**

##### *SB 188 creates the crime of unlawful dissemination of an intimate image*

SALEM – Sharing intimate images without the consent of the person in the image with the intent to harass, humiliate, or injure another person would become illegal under legislation approved this morning by the Oregon Senate. Senate Bill 188 was introduced in response to ongoing concerns about “revenge porn,” intimate images depicting sexual acts or explicit nudity, most often taken consensually within a romantic relationship and then uploaded without the consent of the person depicted after the relationship is over.

"Too many Oregonians have been devastated by the inappropriate posting of explicit photos of themselves on the internet. No one should be subject to the shame, humiliation and economic consequences of being violated this way online," said Senator Sara Gelsler (D-Corvallis/Albany). "SB 188 makes it clear that Oregonians will not tolerate such exploitation and will allow victims of this egregious behavior to reclaim their lives and seek justice."

According to testimony submitted to the Senate Judiciary Committee, these images are often uploaded along with an individual's private contact information. This can lead to anonymous harassment of a victim as well as embarrassment, as internet searches of victims would likely reveal these explicit images. The reputational and personal damage can be lifelong, since these images are functionally permanent once uploaded to the internet.

"SB188 would criminalize the despicable act of disseminating intimate images online without consent. This bill accommodates Oregon's paramount value of free speech, while still giving protection to victims of this egregious invasion of privacy. When intimate images are unlawfully uploaded to the internet, they can have a devastating—and lifelong—impact on the

victim and others, including their family. It's time for Oregon to join the 16 other states which have already criminalized this horrible conduct," said Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum.

Senate Bill 188 was drafted at the request of Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum in consultation with the Oregon District Attorneys Association, the Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, and the American Civil Liberties Union over a six month period. SB 188 would classify the crime as a Class A misdemeanor, elevated to a Class C felony for a second or subsequent conviction.

"The testimony we heard in committee made clear that this is a serious, traumatic form of harassment. Our failure to address it in state law up until now has only intensified the frustration of victims," said Senator Floyd Prozanski (D-Eugene), chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee. "I am glad to see us address this issue promptly with a legislative proposal that will impose serious consequences for disseminating revenge porn while also respecting Oregonians' constitutional rights to free speech."

SB 188 will now go to the House of Representatives for consideration.

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