



Testimony of Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services
SB 489, AAC Unlawful Dissemination of an Intimate Image of Another Person
HB 5586, AAC Revisions to Various Statutes Concerning the Criminal Justice System

Jillian Gilchrest, Director of Public Policy and Communications
Judiciary Committee, March 24, 2014

Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Jillian Gilchrest and I am the Director of Public Policy & Communication for Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services (CONNSACS). CONNSACS is the coalition of Connecticut's nine community-based sexual assault crisis services programs. Our mission is to end sexual violence and ensure high quality, comprehensive and culturally-competent sexual assault victim services.

During our last fiscal year, certified sexual assault victim advocates provided hospital, police and court accompaniment, support groups, individual counseling, 24/7 hotline support, information and referrals to over 7,000 victims and survivors of sexual violence throughout the state.

SB 489, AAC Unlawful Dissemination of an Intimate Image of Another Person

CONNSACS supports SB 489, and applauds the Committee for raising a relatively new issue that has large consequences. What is often referred to as "revenge pornography", "non-consensual pornography" or "cyber rape" is socially and emotionally damaging to its victims and, in cases where victims' personal information is attached to the offending material, can be physically threatening¹.

When individuals are in a relationship, there is an unwritten understanding that private moments and intimate exchanges will be kept within the confines of that relationship. While relationships don't always last, the intimate moments that occurred within that relationship should remain private.

According to a national campaign organized by the [Cyber Civil Rights Initiative](http://www.endrevengeporn.org/), one in ten ex-partners have threatened that they would expose risqué photos of their ex online and 60% of those who threatened to expose intimate photos followed through on their threats. In addition to explicit images, perpetrators post other identifying information to websites dedicated to posting such photos, resulting in harassment of victims. 93% said they have suffered significant

¹ <http://www.endrevengeporn.org/>

emotional distress due to being a victim and 49% said they have been harassed or stalked by users who saw their material.

SB 489 will make unlawful dissemination of an intimate image a class A misdemeanor and will bring attention to an issue that must be addressed.

HB 5586, AAC Revisions to Various Statutes Concerning the Criminal Justice System

CONNSACS supports section 3, of HB 5586, regarding changes to the voyeurism statute.

According to the Mayo Clinic, voyeurism is defined as “sexually arousing fantasies, sexual urges or behaviors involving the act of observing unsuspecting persons who are naked, in the process of disrobing or engaging in sexual activity”².

HB 5586 expands the crime of voyeurism to include simple trespass done to arouse or satisfy the sexual desire of such person, and photographs, films, videotapes or otherwise records of genitals, pubic area or buttocks of another person or the undergarments or stockings used to clothes the genitals, buttocks or pubic area. The current statute only accounts for photographs, films, videotapes of the image of another person.

Additionally, HB 5586 increases the penalties for voyeurism and makes an adjustment to the statute of limitations to five years from the date of offense or five years from the date the subject of the offense discovers the existence of the photograph, film, videotape or other recording.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sources:

Cyber Civil Rights Initiative, <http://www.cybercivilrights.org/>

End Revenge Porn, <http://www.endrevengeporn.org/>

· McAfee’s Love, Relationships, and Technology Report <http://www.mcafee.com/us/about/news/2013/q1/20130204-01.aspx> 2. Cyber Civil Rights Initiative’s “Effects of Revenge Porn” Survey*

Seared by a Peeping Tom’s Gaze, http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/22/opinion/sunday/seared-by-the-gaze-of-a-peeping-tom-william-green.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

**CCRI survey results were achieved from a survey that was hosted on [endrevengeporn.org](http://www.endrevengeporn.org) from Aug 2012-Dec 2013. Participants self-selected into the study by visiting our website and filling out the survey on their own accord. Results depicted are reflective of a female-heavy sample, due to most of our site visitors being women.*

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² <http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/compulsive-sexual-behavior/basics/tests-diagnosis/con-20020126>