

## **Testimony in support of sec. 8 of HB 6921, AAC Invasions of Privacy.**

About 10 years ago I was in a relationship with someone, and during that time, I had given him some personal photos of an intimate nature. Following our split, he threatened to share those photos with family and friends, or put them online. At one point, several years after we were no longer together, he emailed them to me to show me that he still had them in his possession. I was scared he would act out his threats of sharing these photos against my wishes, and felt that there was nothing I could do to prevent it. Last month, despite it having been 5 years after we split up, he posted those photos on Facebook. Many people, friends, family and strangers saw them, and I was named in them. I was embarrassed, scared, and angry. At that time, I spoke with a police officer, but there were several complicating factors:

- 1) I am a Connecticut resident, and my permanent residence is in Connecticut, but currently I am living out-of-state as a student.
- 2) The man who has threatened to and actually shared these photos of me does not live in Connecticut, nor in the state in which I currently reside.
- 3) The police officer I spoke with said that nothing he posted on Facebook was illegal, because I had given him those photos myself.

I felt extremely frustrated and helpless in this situation. Despite several threats of a various nature over the years since we have split up, I cannot seem to move past this point. I've spent countless hours sifting through information online and speaking with police officers, trying to understand what would qualify as an illegal act committed, and how someone can do this without any repercussions. What I have found is many loopholes through which such acts can be committed without penalty. It is unjust for someone to hold that power over another person. The threat of as well as the actual act of dissemination of such photos should not be allowed; it is damaging to one's sense of security and peace, as well as damaging to one's reputation within the community.

I greatly support any measures towards criminalization of dissemination of intimate images against the wishes of the person involved.

Connecticut Resident