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House of Representatives

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Stephanie Clayton
Representative, 19th District

**Written Testimony in support of HB 2062
Representative Stephanie Clayton**

I am writing in strong support of HB 2062. I first became aware of this issue through constituent contact, which led me to begin working on similar legislation. This is a philosophical issue regarding the privacy of all Kansans.

One could make the argument that if an individual made the choice to share a nude image and/or video with another individual that they did so with the understanding that such images could become public. Because of this, there may be a lack of sympathy for these victims.

However, pictures or images given consensually earlier on in a relationship does not mean that this consent extends to allow those images to be shared in a public forum. Simply because one individual might feel wronged or hurt in a relationship does not give them the right to display the private images of someone else's body.

Revenge porn can threaten the job security, relationships and even physical safety of those who are its victims. It is an incredibly violent act, slander, assault and humiliation all in one.

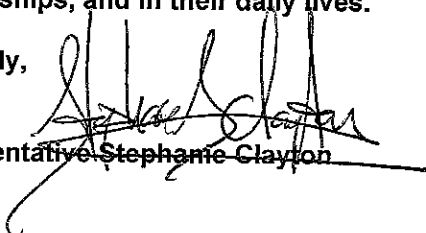
Just as when there is sexual harassment in a workplace - in the form of sexually aggressive or suggestive comments, for example - one might feel uncomfortable or even prevented from working, revenge porn does the same. Except, rather than be contained within the workplace, photos in the online sphere allows anyone in the world to join in on the harassment, within seconds of it being posted.

The victims I have spoken with have ranged in age from 18-52, and are both male and female, were in committed marriages at the time, or were single. These are Kansans who have dealt with tremendous humiliation and deserve a punishment for their victimizer.

One may argue that this bill encourages sending intimate photos, but this false. HB 2062 corrects a wrong in our current statute and gives a consequence to those who maliciously take advantage of vulnerabilities and cause harm to others.

I strongly encourage the approval of HB 2062 as it will help Kansans safer and protected in relationships, and in their daily lives.

Sincerely,


Representative Stephanie Clayton