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House of Representatives

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Stephanie Clayton
Representative, 19th District

Written Testimony in support of HB 2080

Representative Stephanie Clayton

I am writing in strong support of HB 2080. I first became aware of this issue through constituent contact, which led me to begin working on this 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 these 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 the victim. It is an incredibly violent act: slander, assault, and humiliation all in one.

The victims I have spoken with range in age from 18-52, and are both male and female, were in committed marriages or relationships at the time that the crime took place. These are Kansans who have dealt with tremendous humiliation and deserve to seek punishment for their victimizer.

HB 2080 corrects a wrong in our current statutes, and gives a consequence to those who maliciously take advantage of vulnerabilities and cause harm to others.

I strongly encourage the approval of HB 2080, as it will help keep Kansans safe and protected in relationships, and in their daily lives.

Sincerely,

Representative Stephanie Clayton