



**SENATOR
JOE SCHIAVONI**
33RD SENATE DISTRICT

Senate Judiciary Committee
Sponsor Testimony-Senate Bill 251
November 12, 2018

Chairman Bacon, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Senate Criminal Judiciary Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to offer testimony on Senate Bill 251. This important piece of legislation would make it a crime to knowingly distribute a private, sexually explicit image without that person's consent. There have been numerous incidents in recent years involving people who post or share sexual images online without the consent of the person depicted. Commonly referred to as revenge porn, the disclosure of these private images without consent and for no legitimate purpose can cause devastating and irreversible harm to the image's subject.

Right now in Ohio, an individual can upload an explicit image of a victim onto a website or social media where thousands of people can view it. In a matter of days, that image can dominate the first several pages of search engine results for the victim's name, and it could be emailed or seen by their family, employers, co-workers, and friends. Over the last few years a number of celebrities and government officials have been the target of hackers who have posted their private images online for the world to see.

The purpose of this bill is to deter potential offenders and protect the privacy of individuals. Under my proposal, a first offense is a misdemeanor of the third degree which holds a sentence of up to sixty days in jail. The second offense is a misdemeanor of the second degree which holds a sentence of up to ninety days in jail. Lastly, a third offense is a misdemeanor of the first degree which holds a sentence of up to one hundred and eighty days in jail.

This bill also provides a number of protections for victims in academic and professional settings. Any student enrolled in college who has their private sexual images shared could not have scholarship or financial assistance taken away from them as a result. Employees who are victims of this violation would also be protected from adverse employment action. Similarly, professionals seeking state licensure could not be denied and licensed professionals could not be disciplined under this proposal solely based on their victimization.

Currently, forty other states and Washington, D.C. have passed legislation making this type of offense a crime. I urge you to join me and the 40 other states in protecting these victims.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Schiavoni".

Joe Schiavoni