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As a woman, a daughter, and a teacher, I see the importance of advocating for Senate Bill 251. This bill will provide justice and safety to juveniles who have become victims of the dissemination of their images which are used solely for others’ sexual pleasure and to harm the victim involved. Senate Bill 251 would lessen the occurrences of this act by holding offenders accountable for their actions.

Dissemination of sexual images affects the victim’s safety, even more so when their personal information is provided with the images. It is common for offenders to include personal information that allows the viewer to identify the individual in the images. The personal information that is commonly included with disseminated images includes the victim’s name, phone number, address, age and other information allowing strangers on the internet to track the victim which is a safety concern for these individuals.

I myself became a victim of this act in 2015 and like most victims, my personal information was posted for the world to see along with identifiable and private sexual images. Within one day I had over 20,000 views on my images and in this short time period, over 20,000 people had information about me including my age, where I live, my full name, and links to my social media accounts. Since the first occurrence, my images have been posted three more times that I am aware of. As most victims do, I have filed police reports with my local police department but without a law against this harmful act, we cannot hold the offenders accountable.

Senate Bill 251 will provide a voice for all victims across the state of Ohio and ensure the citizens of Ohio are prohibited from disseminating images of people of all ages, and especially those who cannot speak out including the children in our communities. For now, I will continue to advocate for myself and be the voice for all victims.