

Dear Congressman Blessing and distinguished members of this committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my story with you today. My name is Elizabeth Cline and I am a junior at Bloom Carroll High School in Carroll, Ohio. I am writing to you to share my experience as a survivor of Child Sexual Prom Material created and distributed by a fellow classmate and to advocate for the passage of S.B. No. 163 to protect future victims. As you know, AI technology is constantly growing and the abilities are ever changing. However, we have to find a way to protect individuals from the harmful effects of the people behind technology.

In February of 2024, my twin brother pulled me out of class. He had been told by two wrestlers that an AI image of me and my best friend nude was circulating around the wrestling team. The boys shared the details of the image with my brother and the name of the wrestler who created and distributed the image. The boys had deleted the image (as they should) but felt compelled to inform my brother. My brother's immediate reaction was to pull me and my friend from class and take us to the office. In the office my brother shared what took place and I called my parents. By the time my parents arrived at school, the administration had told my parents that they were not able to get anyone to confess to the image and that they did not have any details of what had happened. My parents knew everything that we had shared with the administration so they reiterated what we had told them. My father is a detective with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office and worked along homeland security as a detective. His unit deals with Child pornography so he was aware of this being a felony and that more should be done with the school. My mother is a teacher at Pickerington Local Schools and a previous administrator and aware of what should have been done at school. However, it was like the school was afraid to take any action on the student. My parents pressed and asked for the bus footage to be pulled. They told my parents that they pulled the bus footage and would continue to figure out how to approach this. The student received 3 days suspension for school and none for athletics. It was not until my mother threatened to take it to the media that the school finally pulled bus film and ended up finding the senior wrestler smoking on the bus and distributing the material on the bus. The student was then removed from the wrestling team for the rest of the season. He was not pushed for what he did for me but because he was smoking pot on the bus.

A few hours later, the 17 year old student was asked to come back into school with a parent. At this point, they got a confession out of the student. The officer did not take the phone, just looked through it to make sure the picture was not accessible. The phone should have been taken as evidence and sent to ICAC to be reviewed as evidence. My father pushed to get charges pressed on him. Once charges were pressed, the Fairfield County Prosecutor denied taking the case because there was not enough precedent for them to win and they were waiting on a State Law to be passed before they could actually go after anyone for AI generated CSAM. My father met with the prosecutor's office and asked them, "If someone came in here on Child Pornography charges and claimed it was AI, would you not take the case?" The prosecutor did not know what to say. As you all know, the AI images and real life images are hard to tell apart. So the idea of not taking on the case for AI is also providing an out for individuals who are using real life images as well.

As you see through my process, NO ONE, besides my parents, helped me through this process. The Bloom Carroll school administration failed me, Fairfield County failed me, and the State of Ohio failed me because everyone was too scared to go after my abuser. There was no law to protect me or the others that were part of his creations. I am hoping that through the Federal Government's "Take It Down" law and laws created by states will protect individuals in the future. It is too late to do right by me, but it is not too late for other future victims. I do not know what to see my cousins and friends' siblings go

through the same thing I had to go through. I am lucky enough to have a supportive circle and access to resources to help me through this process. Not every victim has the resources and support circle to help them through this invasive issue so it is important that legislators take a stand for them.

In conclusion, I urge this committee to continue to push the importance of this legislation and take a bi-partisan stand to protect the people that elected you. Not only does this impact individuals mental health but can also impact their future of getting into college and getting jobs. So please take a stand to protect your constituents and yourself from the harmful effects of the humans behind AI technology. Thank you for your time and consideration for S.B. No. 136. I appreciate you allowing me the opportunity to share my story and I am able to answer any questions you may have moving forward.

Thank you,

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