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**Proponent Testimony for S.B. 163  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
May 7, 2025**

Maria York, Policy Director  
Ohio Domestic Violence Network

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

The Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) is Ohio's federally designated domestic violence coalition, representing 76 local domestic violence organizations throughout the state.

ODVN appreciates the opportunity to provide proponent testimony for Senate Bill 163, which aims to protect vulnerable populations from the growing misuse of artificial intelligence by criminalizing AI-generated child sexual abuse material (even when no real children are involved), expanding the offense of identity fraud laws to include unauthorized use of a person's AI-generated voice, face, or likeness, and requiring watermarking of AI-generated content.

We acknowledge and share the concerns raised by technology and civil liberties advocates around First Amendment protections and overly broad regulatory language. But we balance those concerns with the knowledge that for survivors, deepfake abuse is already a reality. In our work, we've seen abusers weaponize AI to harass, intimidate, and control their victims. Survivors have reported fake explicit images or audio recordings, sometimes created without their consent and shared with employers, family members, or posted online.<sup>1, 2</sup>

**Even if the content is fake, the consequences are real.**

Job loss. Isolation. Custody risks. Suicidal ideation. These are not hypothetical harms. A 2023 study by Das et al., *A Taxonomy of AI Privacy Risks*, classifies deepfake pornography as a new

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<sup>1</sup> Lucas, K. T. (2022). Deepfakes and Domestic Violence: Perpetrating Intimate Partner Abuse Using Video Technology. *Victims & Offenders*, 17(5), 647–659. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15564886.2022.2036656>

<sup>2</sup> Rousay, Victoria. 2023. Sexual Deepfakes and Image-Based Sexual Abuse: Victim-Survivor Experiences and Embodied Harms. Available from <https://dash.harvard.edu/handle/1/37374909>



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"exposure risk," a privacy harm that AI uniquely enables.<sup>3</sup> These technologies don't just amplify existing abuse, they invent new ways to violate someone's autonomy, dignity, and safety.

Congress recently passed the bipartisan Take It Down Act, championed by First Lady Melania Trump. It requires online platforms to remove non-consensual deepfake content within 48 hours and is expected to be signed by the President soon. This reflects a growing national consensus: the law must catch up with technology.

S.B. 163 helps Ohio begin that work.

However, survivors must not be unintentionally harmed by the very laws designed to protect them. To that end, we support clarifying language that liability requires actual knowledge of the content's nature and protects victim service providers or others acting in good faith to report or respond to harmful content. Survivors are increasingly caught in the crosshairs of a digital world that is evolving faster than the legal system. We must make sure that in responding, we don't cast the net so wide that it entangles the very people trying to help.

On behalf of the Ohio Domestic Violence Network and our 76 member programs, we would like to thank Senator Blessing and Senator Johnson for highlighting the urgent need to modernize Ohio's legal framework to better protect victims of technology-facilitated abuse.

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<sup>3</sup> Das, S., Biega, A., Yang, J., Qian, K., Kumari, N., & Wilson, S. (2023). *Deepfakes, Phrenology, Surveillance, and More! A Taxonomy of AI Privacy Risks*. Available from <https://sauvikdas.com/papers/51/serve>