Rachel Lamp HB497 Proponent Testimony

Hello everyone, my name is Rachel Lamp. I would like to first start off by thanking you for this opportunity to speak today.

At 16 years old, I shared personal images with a man I trusted and loved. Those images were stolen from him by one of his significantly older friends. That friend would go on to share those images publicly on multiple platforms while asking if anyone had any more. For years I received messages on social media telling me my nude images were online and I assumed it was spam and blocked them.

On November 20, 2013 I opened a message from a close friend that changed my life. The message contained a link to a horrible site that I went to and saw myself as a minor, naked, displayed for the world to see. In that site I would also find nearly everyone I was friends with from my hometown, many of them under age as well.

For years I have lived in fear. Fear of when I would be posted again, fear of who would next contact me telling me they had seen me or what they wanted to do to me sexually because of these photos. Fear of every man around me, thinking they could be the next person to revictimize me. At one point someone forwarded the site to my college and one of my professors took pity on me and helped me to remove the photos but that wasn't the end. I grew obsessed, withdrawn, and reclusive with every post made. Reduced to the value of a trading card to exchange for other women's bodies. I couldn't understand why no one was doing anything. Every victim I spoke to was more defeated than the last. I was falling into a spiral of depression and anxiety until finally Katelyn, whom you (heard from/will hear from), reached out to me that I was posted again but she had a plan. So, I went to the police and filed a report. I had had enough.

Having my body plastered for all to see has affected every facet of my life and relationships. I am lucky to have a supporting family, but many victims are not so lucky. Devoting my time and energy into our organization, BADASS, has helped immensely but there is only so much we can do to help victims like myself and the other unbelievably strong women here with me today. We need your help. You can enact the change to protect the women who have had their voices and dignity stripped away. This has been nearly a 10-year battle for me, it is time to show the victims of revenge porn in the state of Ohio that we are worth protecting.

Thank you.