

Rachel Lamp written testimony for [Wednesday 11/28/2018](#)

Hello everyone, my name is Rachel Lamp, I am COO and Tech Liaison for the Nonprofit BADASS which fights against online image abuse and was formed because of lack of legislation like HB 497. In the time that I have worked with BADASS, I have heard and been a shoulder to cry on for countless stories of revenge porn in the state of Ohio but the story I am sharing today, is my own.

At 16 years old, I shared personal images with a man I was in a long-term relationship with and whom I trusted and loved. Those images were stolen by one of his significantly older friends. That friend would go on to share those images publicly on multiple platforms. 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 ultimately 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 attached to my name and high school. In that site, I would also find hundreds of others from my hometown, many of them under age as well.

For years, I 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 re-victimize me. At one point, someone forwarded the site to the college I was attending 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 I grew obsessed, withdrawn, and reclusive with every post made.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, 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 and identity plastered online has affected every facet of my life and relationships. I am lucky to have a supporting family, but many victims are not so lucky - they go through all of this alone. Devoting my time and energy into our nonprofit, BADASS, has helped immensely but there is only so much we can do to help victims like myself or the other amazing people here with me today. We need your help. You can enact the change to protect those who have had their bodies, voices and dignity stripped away. It is time to show the victims of revenge porn in the state of Ohio that we are worth protecting.

Thank you for your time and thank you to Representative Rogers for inviting us here today.