

**U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Field Hearing:**

“Take It Down: Ending Big Tech’s Complicity In Revenge Porn”

June 26, 2024

Testimony of Ms. Elliston Berry

I was fourteen years old when a fellow classmate created AI nudes from just an innocent photo on Instagram. I was fourteen years old when I was violated all over social media. I was just fourteen years old when I feared my future was ruined.

October 2nd, 2023, I had woken up to multiple messages from a friend notifying me that photos were circulating social media. Not just any photos. Pictures from a past Instagram post with a nude body created by an AI app upon mine. Fear, shock, disgust, and disbelief were some of the many emotions that filled my head in that moment. I was left speechless as I tried to wrap my head around the fact that this was occurring. Having to admit to your parents was shameful as I still felt responsible and began to blame myself.

As I attended school, I was fearful of the reactions and opinions people had. We live in a society that is built on social media, so I had been convinced at least the whole school had seen these images. And to this day, the number of people that have these images or had seen them is still a mystery. As it took eight and a half months to get these images off Snapchat, that doesn’t wipe the photos off people’s devices. Every day, I will live in fear that these images will resurface, or someone could easily re-create.

As these pictures were being passed around, I still attended school and was expected to act like all was well. I felt unprotected walking through school. Safety was never a concern of mine until all these photos spawned. The school was little to no help, they said, “it was out of their control.”

The spread of AI nudes is unpublishable because it isn't considered child pornography. But as a victim of AI deep fakes, it creates a tremendous amount of pain. That is why I come here to share my testimony.

My goal is to prevent any other student from undergoing this issue. Cases of students, female and male, are appearing every single day. And the people behind this malicious act do not have any consequences. My intent is to give victims a voice they never had. And hopefully turn this horrible situation into something good.

Thank you.