

**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. Francesca Mani

First off, a huge thank you to everyone who has taken time out of their insanely busy schedules to be here. It means a lot to me to be able to share my story and ask you to do the right thing by putting laws in place to protect women and teenagers like me.

On October 20th, I found out that a few of my classmates created AI nude images of me and other girls in my school. Without our knowledge and our consent. Now what is consent? Consent is clearly and willingly agreeing to something without any pressure. Well, we did not agree to anything.

Despite not seeing the images ourselves and hearing assurances that they have been removed, what happened on October 20th to me, and the other girls is unacceptable. No child, teenager, or woman should ever experience what we have experienced. I initially felt shocked, then powerless and angered by the absence of laws and school policies to protect us. Now, I am determined to push for reforms.

The obvious lack of laws speaks volumes. We girls are on our own and considering that 96% of Deep Fake AI victims are women and children, we're also seriously vulnerable and we need your help.

This meeting proves that the politicians here today, regardless of being Democrats or Republicans, genuinely care. They're fathers, mothers, uncles, brothers, sisters, and more. They understand how urgent it is to fix this mess.

Coming together to tackle the misuse of AI is super important. So, a huge thank you to everyone here, and even those not here but backing the newly introduced AI bill or thinking about supporting it.

I'm 15 now. What happened to me at 14 could happen to anyone. That's why it's so important to have laws in place. I'm not here by choice; you know, discussing legislation isn't exactly my ideal way to have fun on Wednesday afternoon in June. But I know my voice matters. Without Senator Cruz's bill, we'll continue to have teens making AI Deep Fake images of girls. But AI's not just a toy for bored teens; it's also a tool for predators, and that's really not okay.

To wrap this up, this issue is pretty black and white. Creating AI Deep Fake Nude images without consent should be illegal and it's not okay, and it's the adults' job to protect us with laws and our job to learn how to protect ourselves by protecting our image. In conclusion, while we've been focusing on the challenges and potential misuse of AI, it's important to recognize that AI is not all so bad. It's a fascinating and rapidly advancing technology that has been significantly benefiting our society in the healthcare and science arena. It's crucial, however, that we approach AI with a balanced perspective. We need to educate ourselves about its capabilities and limitations, ensuring that we evolve and grow alongside this technology. If we get the right laws in place and learn more about AI in schools, we can totally tap into the benefits of AI without getting burned. It's all about finding the sweet spot where innovation meets responsibility, where progress doesn't come at the cost of safety and ethics.

So there you have it. My Wednesday plea for change. I hope I didn't take too much of your time and that together, we will make the digital world a safer place, not just for me, but for everyone out there. Thanks for listening!