

**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 Mrs. Anna McAdams

On October 2nd, we woke up to news that devastated our lives forever. The previous day, a fellow classmate decided a fate for my daughter and her eight friends that they never would’ve imagined for themselves. He decided to take beautiful innocent pictures off of their social media platforms and impose nude body parts onto them using an AI app called DNGG.

On Snapchat he made multiple accounts. He friend requested people and blasted them with the fake nudes of the girls. It is important to draw attention to the fact that he didn’t take someone else’s nudes and put their faces on them. Instead, he took their actual bodies used AI to make the images look real. These images are child pornography. The girls were 14 years old. Their innocence was taken that day.

In just 24 hours, everyone in their social group had seen these pictures and they were being sent out to the entire High School. That week became a nightmare. Some of their friends asked him why he was doing it? His response was that he wanted to go out with a bang and wanted to ruin the girls.

In today’s world, those words are some of the scariest. We live with school shootings on a regular basis in this country. You could only imagine the fear those words caused the girls. Would he come to school with the intent to hurt them? Would he kill himself? The girls did not want to go to school.

On Friday of that week the girls’ school went into lockdown. It seemed to the girls someone was after them. We are thankful that it was nothing more than a false alarm. During the lockdown, this boy decided to go on

to his account and continue to terrorize. This allowed the schools' tech team to catch him.

It is so shocking to be violated in this way. First, having nudes sent out you didn't consent to and second, having the fear that your life will be taken by someone. What he did was malicious. He chose his victims and reveled in torturing them.

Though he was caught we were still not allowed to know his identity. The Sheriff's office and the school said they had to protect him as a minor. Our girls felt jaded by this. They were the victims not him. We were able to have the school do a title 9 investigation. Once this was completed we were able to know his identity.

The school sent him to in school suspension but could not tell us when he was coming back. The rest of that fall semester was spent in fear that he would come back to school without a warning. My husband and I went to the school board. Our plea was for them to expel him indefinitely. The school board argued that there was nothing the student code of conduct to cover this AI Offense.

The perpetrator was charged with the sale/distribution/display of harmful material to a minor - a class A misdemeanor. Instead of having our day in court, Parker County deemed him not a harm and gave him probation. When he turns 18 his record will be expunged. He will walk away unscathed. However, our girls will forever live in fear that when they apply for a job or for college these pictures might resurface. He chose a fate for our daughters that we can't change. There needs to be consequences for what he did.

If we do not have stricter laws and punishments for this type of crime it will only increase. We are thankful that all the girls have families, friends, and counselors who support them. They will come through this. If the girls did not have that support, it could've turned into the worst circumstance imaginable, like mental breakdowns or suicide.

This is why the Take it Down Act is crucial. This bill would hold even minors accountable with jail time for this crime. And, it would require Snapchat and other social media apps to take images down within 48 hours. As of two weeks ago, Snapchat had not responded to the warrant issued by our sheriff's department, nor to any of my requests online. When I met with Senator Cruz's office two weeks ago, they were able to get ahold of Snapchat and get the accounts and images taken down. It took eight and a half months. If we had been Taylor Swift, they would have come down immediately. This bill gives us a voice we didn't have before.

Thank you for your time.