



Sexual Violence Prevention Association

Sexual Violence Prevention Association (SVPA)
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The DEFIANCE Act, a bipartisan bill to address and prevent nonconsensual deepfake pornography, introduced in the House and Senate

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On March 7th, 2024, Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY-14), Mike Garcia (R-CA-27), Ted Lieu (D-CA-36), Nancy Mace (R-SC-1), Deborah Ross (D-NC-2), Lori Chavez De-Remer (R-OR-5), Jennifer Wexton (D-VA-10), Max Miller (R-OH-7), and Jamie Raskin (D-MD-8) [introduced](#) the bipartisan Disrupt Explicit Forged Images and Non-Consensual Edits Act of 2024 ([DEFIANCE Act](#)).

On January 30th, 2024, the DEFIANCE Act was [introduced in the Senate](#) by U.S. Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL), Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee; U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee; and U.S. Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Josh Hawley (R-MO), Angus King Jr. (I-ME), Mike Lee (R-UT), and Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer (D-NY).

Deepfake pornography uses artificial intelligence to generate fake sexually explicit videos or images of someone without their consent. Currently, there are no federal laws addressing this issue. The DEFIANCE Act would address and prevent nonconsensual deepfake pornography by providing a civil right of action for victims to seek justice.

"We greatly appreciate these Representatives' brave legislation that will protect victims across the country," said Omny Miranda Martone, the Founder and CEO of the [Sexual Violence Prevention Association \(SVPA\)](#). "Deepfake pornography is a form of digital sexual violence. It violates victims' consent, autonomy, and privacy. Victims face increased risk of stalking, domestic abuse, loss of employment, damaged reputation, and emotional trauma."

As of 2023, over [98%](#) of deepfakes on the internet were pornography. There were over [500,000](#) deepfakes shared online in 2023. The number of deepfakes online is [doubling](#) every six months.

The [DEFIANCE Act](#) provides a civil right of action for victims to seek justice against perpetrators who create, distribute, or solicit deepfake pornography without the consent of the person whose likeness is depicted. This will help prevent sexual violence in the future.

The DEFIANCE Act has been met with significant support from victims as well as organizations dedicated to women's rights, sexual violence, and victim advocacy. Over 40 organizations have endorsed the bill including RAINN, the National Women's Law Center (NWLC), National Organization for Women (NOW), National Domestic Violence Hotline (NDVH), National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE), and National Alliance to End Sexual Violence (NAESV). See the full list at the end.

The SVPA was approached by many victims with traumatic stories of nonconsensual deepfake pornography. In response, in June of 2023, the SVPA published an [open letter](#) to Congress urging them to address nonconsensual deepfake pornography. Sixty organizations dedicated to sexual violence, women's rights, and victim advocacy signed on including the National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence (NCDSV), Feminist Majority Foundation, UltraViolet, National Women's Political Caucus, and multiple chapters of the National Organization for Women (NOW). This pressure along with the recent news regarding [Taylor Swift](#), pushed Congress to take action.

"Unfortunately, due to my outspoken work on this issue, deepfake pornography has been made of me," said Martone. "As a survivor, this was very triggering and provoked traumatic memories. This is yet another example of how deepfake pornography is used to silence and oppress women and minorities. Yet, there are no options for me to take legal action. This issue will continue to increase until victims can seek justice. The DEFIANCE Act will change this."

"This guy from my gym created fake porn of me after I said no to a date," said an anonymous victim of nonconsensual deepfake pornography. "He made it look like I was doing explicit things with him. He showed it to a bunch of people that go to our gym, boasting about how easy it was to create on some app called Face Magic. Luckily, one of them told me and I talked to the manager. He got banned from the gym but then he posted it on Instagram. Luckily, Instagram took it down but a bunch more people saw it. This whole experience was really traumatizing. I spoke with a lawyer about suing him but she said it wasn't really possible. What he did was legal. Now I feel even more powerless."

"The National Organization for Women (NOW) urges Congress to speedily approve the DEFIANCE Act of 2024," said Christian F. Nunes, President of the National Organization for Women. "The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to produce and then distribute nonconsensual forged images – usually of women of color and the LGBTQ+ community – that are sexually explicit must be stopped. This bipartisan, bicameral legislation would provide relief to victims by allowing them to take civil action against those who have produced or received, and then distributed pornographic images without consent. Victims would have the legal power to seek damages and have the images removed. Deepfake pornography is a growing problem and could be effectively curbed through the DEFIANCE Act."

For further information on the DEFIANCE Act, please go to: www.s-v-p-a.org/defiance.

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Contact

For media requests, interviews, and more information please contact outreach@s-v-p-a.org or call/text 508-367-5080.

About the SVPA

The Sexual Violence Prevention Association (SVPA) is a national nonprofit dedicated to preventing sexual violence systemically. You can learn more about our organization on our [website](#) or in our [impact report](#).

Links

- [Senate Judiciary Committee Press Release](#)
- [Rep. AOC House Press Release](#)
- [DEFIANCE Act Webpage](#) (regularly updated with legislative news)
- [Sexual Violence Prevention Association \(SVPA\)](#) (main website)

Endorsements

1. Sexual Violence Prevention Association (SVPA)
2. American Association of University Women (AAUW)
3. Catholics for Choice
4. Center for Democracy and Technology (CDT)
5. Center for Survivor Agency and Justice (CSAJ)
6. Democratic Women's Caucus (DWC)
7. End Rape on Campus
8. End the Silence
9. Equality California
10. Esperanza United
11. Explain the Asterisk
12. Foundation Ra
13. Futures Without Violence
14. Hire Survivors Hollywood
15. Jewish Women International
16. Joyful Heart Foundation
17. Legal Momentum
18. Ms. Magazine
19. My Image My Choice
20. National Alliance to End Sexual Violence (NAESV)
21. National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE)
22. National Domestic Violence Hotline (NDVH)
23. National LGBTQ Task Force
24. National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV)
25. National Organization for Women (NOW)

26. National Partnership for Women & Families
27. National Women's Law Center (NWLC)
28. PACT
29. Protect America's Daughters
30. Public Citizen
31. Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN)
32. Reclaim Coalition
33. Recognize Violence, Change Culture (RVCC)
34. Rights4Girls
35. Rooting Movements
36. Sakhi for South Asian Women
37. Sexual Assault Response Coalition (SARC)
38. SIECUS: Sex Ed for Social Change
39. Street Grace
40. Students Against Sexual Assault
41. Trans Empowerment Project
42. Ujima, The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community
43. UltraViolet
44. What Were You Wearing
45. Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (WCADVSA)
46. YWCA USA