Amy Kuhn
P.O. Box 66831
Falmouth, ME 04105
(207) 939-6903
Amy.Kuhn@legislature.maine.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1400
TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

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Testimony of Representative Amy D. Kuhn in support of
LD 1944, An Act to Protect Children and Adults from
Technology-facilitated Sexual Abuse
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Senator Carney, honorable members of the Judiciary Committee, as you know, I am Amy Kuhn, proudly serving House District 111, in the town of Falmouth. It is a pleasure to be with you today to introduce **LD 1944, An Act to Protect Children and Adults from Technology-facilitated Sexual Abuse.**

I will start with some orientation to the bill before you. The first part of the bill seeks to update Maine's child pornography laws to include certain artificial intelligence (AI) generated images and was proposed and drafted by the Maine Prosecutors' Association. The second part of the bill on pages 7 and 8 seeks to incorporate nonconsensual AI generated images into Maine's current revenge porn statute. This is the part of the bill I had been working on prior to cloture. Given the overlapping nature of the content, it made sense to combine both applications of AI generated sexual images into one bill for consideration.

The practice of creating nonconsensual AI generated sexual images (also known as "deep fakes") is increasingly common and convincing. Nudification websites and apps enable users to use AI to create explicit images right on their phones with just the press of a button. When these images are shared, victims of deep fakes often suffer severe emotional distress, reputational damage and violations of privacy. Yet, our current laws do not adequately address situations where no original explicit image exists.

LD 1944 recognizes these harms and provides a legal framework to address them. It incorporates deep fake porn into the definition of "unauthorized dissemination of certain private images," which is a Class D crime. The bill also expands the definition of "abuse" under the protection from abuse laws to allow a person to seek a protection order against another person who threatens to commit, or cause to be committed, a crime of unauthorized dissemination of certain private images.

By updating Maine's laws on the unlawful dissemination of sexually explicit images, the bill ensures that individuals who create or share AI-generated intimate images without consent can be prosecuted. Maine would join 39 other states in addressing this problem. I would note that

District 111: Falmouth (part)

similar deep fake bills in other states have passed with broad bipartisan support, in some cases even unanimously.

LD 1944 represents a comprehensive approach to combating technology-facilitated sexual abuse. By updating definitions and closing legal gaps, it ensures that Maine's laws protect all individuals from emerging digital threats.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this bill.