

Dear Chairman Maroney and members of the General Law Committee:

My name is Alexandra Gillespie. I am a resident of New Canaan, CT and currently attend Colby College where I study Computational Psychology, English, and Philosophy. This combination of disciplines serves my research in computing ethics including ethical uses and regulations for AI. I'm published in the field and intend on pursuing a PhD after I graduate in the Spring of 2025. Since middle school, I have been involved in LiveGirl, a Connecticut-based nonprofit that equips women and girls with leadership development, mentorship, and career readiness. Today, I advocate on their behalf On Bill 2, AN ACT CONCERNING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

I am very passionate about making technology safe and in service to society, but unfortunately, regulation of such technologies comes too little and too late for many victims of its abuse. The bill in question today, Committee Bill Number 2 concerning artificial intelligence, takes an important step toward protecting women and girls from some of the most disgusting evils AI is capable of enabling. I am a firm believer that the utilization of Artificial Intelligence is a privilege, not a right, and requires far heavier regulation than we currently see at every level of governance. I take particular interest in Section 9, the contents of which deal with pornographic media produced without the consent of the subject. Modifying this section to include images generated or modified by AI is of special interest to LiveGirl as an organization because of the disproportionate impact of this technology on women and girls. An NBC article from March of last year found that at least 96% of deep fakes that currently exist on the internet are non-consensual and sexually explicit. Nearly all of these feature women and girls. There is also mounting-evidence of women and girls whose lives have been ruined by the production of AI-generated or -modified pornography, from engineering students to A-List celebrities.

In preparation for this testimony, I reviewed a Washington Post article detailing that 26-year-old comedian Bobbi Althoff had non-consensual images produced and spread across a popular social media platform within the last week. This social media platform is frequented by my peers and girls younger than me, demonstrating the wide reach and ease of access to materials such as this.

It is also worth mentioning that many websites that generate or modify images using AI retain the rights to the images generated and even sometimes the images which are fed into the program. These images could be used as training data for future iterations of those models or sold to third parties at their discretion, further violating the bodily autonomy and privacy of these women. To call this a disgusting violation of a woman's rights in every respect is an egregious

understatement, but is the best I can do to implore you to instate the protections outlined in Section 9.

While this bill is, in its current state, extremely important, I propose a small alteration. Currently, the language in Section 9 defines “synthetic image” as “partially or fully generated by a computer system”. While this could theoretically also apply to images modified or edited by AI, I would advise making this language more explicit. One of the reasons AI editing tools is a specific area I want to acknowledge explicitly is because these tools market themselves as AI editors rather than generators. The underlying technology is the same as in cases of generation, but uploading an image with the purpose of editing it may result in the aforementioned transfer of ownership from the individual to the company itself. This means that even if an image is partially, mostly, or even completely authentic, running it through an AI editor could lead to a data leak or non-consensual distribution of that image. Using an AI editor to modify an image in any way should be explicitly forbidden under this section. As such, modifying the language of Section 9 to say “partially or fully generated or edited/modified by a computer system” is my proposed alteration.

AI is a weapon wielded from behind a computer screen. There should be greater protections in place to treat AI as such, especially where women and girls are concerned. Thank you for your time, your service, and your consideration of my support of this AI bill.