



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

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Senator Susan Rubio
1021 O Street, Suite 8710
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Senate Bill 1081
SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Rubio:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is pleased to support Senate Bill 1081 (Rubio).

Under CA's existing "revenge porn" statute, it is a misdemeanor for a person to intentionally distribute an image of the intimate body part of another or of the person engaged in a sex act under circumstances in which it was agreed upon or understood that the image would remain private, and the person distributing the image knows or should know that the distribution of the image will cause serious emotional distress, and the person depicted suffers that distress. However, existing law does not define what it means to "distribute" an image. Without a statutory definition of distribution as it applies to this crime, there is ambiguity as to whether distribution requires a transfer of an image from one person to another, or whether publicly displaying such an image is sufficient to meet the definition of distribution.

SB 1081 clarifies the vagueness in existing law by specifying that the concept of intentional distribution includes a person who intentionally "causes to be distributed" the objectionable images. Under this bill's provisions, a person intentionally causes an image to be distributed "when that person arranges, specifically requests, or intentionally causes another person to distribute the image." It further defines "distribute" or "distribution" to include "dissemination, presentation, display, exhibition, or otherwise sharing with a third party or the public."

"Revenge porn" is an invasive crime intended to shame and intimidate its victims, often within the context of domestic violence. This type of abusive behavior can inflict significant emotional distress on the victims of these crimes. SB 1081 would help strengthen this statute.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Tamar Tokat in our Legislative Office at 916-442-0668.

Very Truly Yours,

GEORGE GASCÓN
District Attorney