

My name is Ashley Jellison, and I am the Executive Director of the Colorado Children's Alliance, a statewide nonprofit that supports child advocacy centers and their work every day to protect children from abuse and exploitation.

I urge your strong support for Senate Bill 288, which will modernize Colorado's laws to include AI-generated child sexual abuse material—or CSAM—under the same criminal prohibitions as traditional CSAM. This is a critical and timely step to protect children in an increasingly digital world.

CSAM is one of the most devastating forms of child abuse. It is not just imagery—it is evidence of a child being harmed, and it perpetuates that harm every time it is viewed, shared, or reproduced. Survivors describe the trauma of knowing that the worst moments of their lives live on in images and videos they can't control. That pain does not go away.

Now, we are seeing a terrifying new evolution of this abuse: AI-generated CSAM. With freely available tools, bad actors can create hyper-realistic images and videos that depict children in sexually explicit situations—without ever needing to exploit a real child in front of a camera. But let's be clear: these materials *are* still child sexual abuse material. They reflect the same intent to sexualize, exploit, and harm children. And they feed the same communities that traffic in this abuse.

Worse, the line between real and fake is increasingly difficult to detect. AI-generated CSAM fuels demand for more abuse, further normalizes child sexual exploitation, and contributes to the ongoing re-victimization of children whose likenesses may be used—even if altered or manipulated digitally.

I want to be clear. This isn't something that *might* happen. This is something that's already happening nationwide – in our schools and in our communities. There are countless instances of school-aged children using AI to create sexually explicit images of their peers, whether for bullying, or for sexual gratification. These images are violations of trust and safety for every victim.

We have heard that creating AI CSAM should not be a crime because no real child was victimized. This is incorrect on two main counts. First, AI creates based on real people. It will pull from photos of real children to create the sexually explicit photos, and those photos will be a mixture of real eyes, noses, and mouths. Second, several studies highlight the relationship between CSAM possession and future hands-on offenses of children. CSAM possession is an escalator. While a child might not have been physically harmed this time, they will be in the future. AI has only made this process easier.

Colorado's current laws weren't written with this kind of technology in mind. This bill closes that gap. It ensures that those who create, possess, or distribute AI-generated CSAM can be held accountable—just as if they had produced real images of real children.

Passing this bill sends a powerful message: Colorado will not tolerate the sexual abuse or exploitation of children, no matter the method. Whether the images are captured with a camera or created with a computer, the impact on children is the same.

I urge you to vote yes on this bill and protect our children in this changing landscape. Thank you for your consideration.

Dear House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Courtney Sutton and I'm the public policy director for COVA (Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance). We are a statewide victim service coalition supporting survivors of all crimes and the advocates serving them. COVA is asking for your support on SB25-288. I would like to thank the sponsors leading this critical effort to address the harm of creation and distribution of nonconsensual intimate images.

Over 300 million children worldwide have been victims of online sexual exploitation and abuse in the past year alone. Please let that number sink in - over 300 million children experienced online sexual exploitation and abuse last year. While these numbers are staggering, we must recognize the child behind the number. Child sexual abuse is a global crisis that is continuously worsening due to advancing technologies enabling instantaneous production and limitless distribution of sexual exploitation materials and unregulated access to abused children. In 2023, the National Center on Missing and Exploited Children received 35,925,098 reports of child pornography. They also received reports of individuals using generated sexually exploitive images being used to extort a child or their family for financial gains. Victims of all types of sexual violence face severe and lifelong impacts to both their physical and mental health, including suicidal ideation, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety, and more.

There is a rapidly changing online landscape that allows anyone to upload an image of a fully dressed person to create a disturbingly realistic nude image with only a few clicks. These images can then be shared widely through social media, text messages, and other platforms including school networks. The internet has enabled communities of sex offenders to easily and rapidly share child sexual abuse and exploitative images, and this abuse must end.

These images can circulate widely and leave victims to continuously question: have you seen the image before? These images have no ending to their harm. It can continue to haunt them for years and decades later. I want to make it clear that victims of nonconsensual creation or distribution of intimate images is sexual violence. The creation and distribution of these images violates a victim's consent, autonomy, and privacy. Colorado must act to add interventions and avenues for both civil and criminal justice to allow victims to regain control of their life. The harm is immense and life-shattering.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge you to vote yes to recognize the harm caused by the creation and distribution of nonconsensual intimate images.

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