

Be an Advocate

Draft Email to a Legislator

Dear Senator/Delegate (**insert legislator's last name**),

I am a resident of (**city/town**). I am writing to express my concern about the lack of protections Virginians have regarding unsolicited lewds on their mobile devices. As the law stands today, it is perfectly acceptable for an individual to send unsolicited vulgar, lewd, lascivious, or indecent images to another individual over the age of 18. **This is not okay.**

--OR--

I am a student at (**VA college or univ**). In Virginia law, if an individual is found to be using a computer or computer network to coerce, intimate, or harass using obscene, vulgar, profane, lewd, lascivious, or indecent language, he is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. Yet if a person is known to be sending similar unsolicited lewds via cell phone to someone over 18, it is not against the law. A great deal of the information I access on a daily basis is on my phone; how can I make sure I am protected if it's not even illegal to send me photos that I don't want? **This is not okay.**
(**Insert personal story**)

Under Virginia law, if an individual is found to be using a computer or computer network to coerce, intimate, harass using obscene, vulgar, profane, lewd, lascivious, or indecent language, he is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. Yet if a person sends unsolicited lewds to someone over the age of 18 via cell phone, it is not against the law.

Furthermore, it is also a crime in Virginia if a person intentionally makes an obscene display or exposure of his person, or the private parts thereof, in any public place, or in any place where others are present. Again, if a person receives an unsolicited vulgar, obscene, or lewd image on his mobile device it is not a crime.

cont.

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There is a **cell-phone sized loop-hole** in Virginia's laws regarding obscene and related offenses. Therefore, I strongly urge you to work with your colleagues in the Senate/House to pass **(bill number)** in 2022. It is past time all Virginians are protected from receiving unsolicited lewds.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding the positive steps you are taking to advance the safety and culture of our state in the immediate and long-term future.

Sincerely,
(insert your name)
(district)
(postal address)



National Women's
Political Caucus
VIRGINIA