

# Be an Advocate

## Sample Letter to the Editor

### Decency has a Cell Phone Sized Loophole

November 11, 2021

During the 2021 Special Session in August, a bill that would criminalize texting of unsolicited obscene photos by adults was killed by 8 Senators in Virginia. It is already a felony to send these photos to minors. HB 2254 sponsored by Kelly Convirs-Fowler had bipartisan support in the House of Delegates and passed unanimously 99-0. Why did it fail in the Senate?

A 2017 survey from YouGov found that more than half of all millennial women had received an explicit image electronically, and more than 75 percent of these recipients had not sought them out. There are laws in Virginia that protect citizens from indecent exposure in public spaces, on our computers, and from revenge porn. How is it that there is a cell-phone sized loophole in the law that would allow a person to send an unsolicited lewd image?

Our lives are all online. We order food online, we educate our children online, and we date online. Our culture values the way the online world allows anyone to access areas that we once thought were inaccessible. As our world operates online there need to be set boundaries. The unsolicited sending of a lewd photo must be made illegal. Children, teenagers, and adults need to understand that there are consequences for any obscene actions online and it includes a cell phone.

Virginia has an opportunity to be the second state in the nation to send the very powerful message that says what are normal acceptable behaviors with cell phones. Our state can be the steward of what is decent and what is obscene. Unwanted indecent exposure should be illegal on a city street, on a computer, and on a cell phone.

Jessica Kujala, Fredericksburg



National Women's  
Political Caucus  
VIRGINIA