



The SHIELD Act

The Stopping Harmful Image Exploitation and Limiting Distribution (SHIELD) Act (S. 412/H.R. 3686) is a bipartisan bill that addresses the devastating impact of the nonconsensual distribution of explicit images online. The SHIELD Act will benefit child victims by criminalizing the distribution of visual depictions of a nude minor in instances where the images are exploitative, but do not meet the legal definition of sexually explicit conduct that constitutes child pornography.

The SHIELD Act Benefits Child Victims by:

- Filling a gap in the law to criminalize the distribution of sexually exploitative images of a child. The SHIELD Act will provide a remedy to combat the distribution of sexually exploitative images of a child by criminalizing the knowing distribution of a “visual depiction of a nude minor” with intent to abuse or humiliate a child or to arouse or gratify a sexual desire. The bill defines a visual depiction of a nude minor as a sexually exploitative image depicting a child that does not meet the legal definition of sexually explicit conduct that constitutes child pornography.