

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

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August 4, 2021

Hon. Michael Day, House Chair Joint Committee on the Judiciary State House, Room 136 Boston, MA 02113 Hon. Jamie Eldridge, Senate Chair Joint Committee on the Judiciary State House, Room 511-C Boston, MA 02113

Re: H.1755 An Act to protect against deep fakes used to facilitate criminal or torturous conduct

Dear Chair Day and Chair Eldridge,

I write to you in support of a piece of legislation that I have filed to address deep fakes: H.1755 *An Act to protect against deep fakes used to facilitate criminal or torturous conduct.* The technology that is used to produce deep fakes is advancing at a higher rate than the ability to spot them, which makes deep fake technology increasingly dangerous.

From 2018 to 2019, the number of deep fakes on the internet increased drastically from 7,964 to 14,678. One of the most significant concerns regarding the rise in deep fakes is how they will be used in the political scene to alter the perceptions of candidates in political races, as some suspect that they will make people more likely to vote within their party.

H.1755 would make the creation and distribution of deep fakes to aid criminal or harmful activities illegal. This is a crucial step to address the growing use of deep fakes and create a safer, more transparent online environment. I hope that the committee will report the bill out favorably.

Sincerely,

Jay Livingstone State Representative

8th Suffolk District