



March 17, 2026

Chair Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
Assembly Privacy and Consumer Protection Committee
1020 N Street, Room 162
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1705 (Bauer-Kahan) Pornographic internet websites

Dear Chair Bauer-Kahan,

The California Catholic Conference **SUPPORTS your bill AB 1705 (Bauer-Kahan)** as introduced 2/4/2026. This bill requires an operator of a pornographic internet website to exercise ordinary care and reasonable diligence to ensure each instance of sexually explicit content depicts an adult, and the depicted person consented to both the activity and the uploading, and requires a written statement attesting to these provisions. The bill authorizes civil action by the individual or a public prosecutor for violation of this bill.

Commercial sexual exploitation occurs via force, fraud or coercion against adults, or when a minor is engaged in a commercial sex act. With both image based sexual abuse and child sexual abuse material (CSAM), the digital footprint of such images results in lasting and repeated trauma for the victim. Each time that material is downloaded, shared or viewed, their trauma is compounded and re-lived.

Online sexual exploitation is a growing concern, especially on emerging social media such as Instagram, TikTok and OnlyFans. Pornhub, the largest pornographic site in the world had to remove over 10 million pornographic videos in December 2020 because they did not verify users, could not confirm consent was obtained, and had numerous cases of reuploads of the real sexual abuse, rape, nonconsensual content, and sex trafficking of children, teenagers and adults.

The Holy See wrote to the UN that pornography's violence and coercion is "intrinsic" to the nature of the business where vulnerable women are "taken for commodities" and that it is "incompatible with respect for the equal dignity of women." This bill will help to deter traffickers and other bad actors from sharing sexually exploitive material of children and adults and will empower survivors with the tools to have their images removed – helping them to recover their dignity and rebuild their lives.

The Catholic community in California is 12 million strong, and we are the largest provider of private nonprofit social services for education, health care, and social services for the common good of our state. The Conference supports policy that uplifts the most vulnerable and helps families to thrive in the state.

For these reasons, as the public policy voice for the Catholic Church of California, we request an **"AYE" vote on AB 1705**. If you have any questions, please contact Molly C. Sheahan, Associate Director for Healthy Families, at (916) 313-4019 or by email at msheahan@cacatholic.org.

Sincerely yours,

Kathleen Domingo
Executive Director

KBD:MS:mip