STATEMENT OF MARTINA MCBRIDE

ON S. 1367, THE "NO FAKES ACT OF 2025"

BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PRIVACY, TECHNOLOGY, AND THE LAW

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

May 21, 2025

Chairman Blackburn, Ranking Senator Klobuchar, and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for inviting me to speak about S. 1367, the "NO FAKES Act of 2025," a landmark effort to protect human voices and likenesses from being cloned by artificial intelligence without consent. I am so grateful for the care that went into this effort, and I want to thank you both, and your colleagues, for making this issue a priority.

I started singing when I was four years old and my voice is my art form. Each of my recordings includes a piece of me that is individual and unique.

My songs reflect the human experience, and I am honored that they are a part of people's lives - from wedding vows to break-ups, to celebrating milestones and even the special relationship between a mother and daughter.

But today – my voice and likeness, along with so many others, are at risk. AI technology is amazing and can be used for so many wonderful purposes. But like all great technologies, it can also be abused, in this case by stealing people's voices and likenesses to scare and defraud families, manipulate the images of young girls in ways that are shocking to say the least, impersonate government officials, or make phony recordings posing as artists like me.

It's frightening. And it's wrong.

Congress just took a very important step forward to deal with sexually explicit deepfake images by passing the "Take It Down Act." And I want to thank all the leaders, including Senators Cruz, Klobuchar, Blackburn, and many on this Committee who worked hard with others to push that bill into law.

The NO FAKES Act is a perfect complement to that effort, by preventing AI deepfakes that steal someone's voice or likeness and use them to harass, bully, and defraud others, or to damage their career, reputation, or values.

The NO FAKES Act would give each of us the ability to say when and how AI deepfakes of our voices and likenesses can be used. If someone doesn't ask before posting a harmful deepfake, we can have it removed without jumping through unnecessary hoops or going to court.

It gives every person the power to say "yes" or "no" about how their most personal human attributes are used.

It supports AI technology by providing a roadmap for how these powerful tools can be developed the right way. And it doesn't stand in the way of protected uses like news, parodies, or criticism. I want to thank the technology companies like OpenAI and Google who support this bill, as well as the legions of creators who have worked so hard to advocate for it, and the child protection and anti sex trafficking and exploitation groups who support it and continue to fight for those who are most vulnerable.

In my career, it's been a special honor to record songs that shine a light on the battles many women fight, especially the terrible cost of domestic violence. Many fans have told me that the song "Independence Day" has given them strength, and in some cases the song has been the catalyst that has made them realize they need to leave an abusive situation.

Imagine the harm an AI deepfake could do breaching that trust, using my voice in songs that belittle or justify abuse. As an artist, a mother, a human being who cares about others – I am pleading with you to give me the tools to stop that kind of betrayal.

Setting America on the right course to develop the world's best AI while preserving the sacred qualities that make our country so special – authenticity, integrity, humanity, and our endlessly inspiring spirit – that what the NO FAKES Act will help to accomplish. I urge you to pass the bill *now*.

Thank you.