

# Making a Difference

Newsletter for  
Maryland Coalition Against Pornography, Inc.

MCAP Hotline: 301-439-8475  
[www.mcap1.com](http://www.mcap1.com)



TOGETHER WE CARE

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Spring/Summer 2018

## What Have We Learned?

What we asked - simply, that our Maryland General Assembly pass a resolution to declare pornography to be a public health crisis. We did not ask for funds, laws or regulations to address it. But even such a simple petition, which was well-supported by documentation and well-qualified expert witnesses from academia, clinicians, clergy and public policy advocates, made no progress out of the House Rules or Senate Judicial Proceedings Committees. Despite sincere, heartfelt remarks by the sponsors [Senator Andrew Serafini, and Delegates Susan McComas and Neil Parrott], a press conference with remarks by national experts and non-profit advocacy groups, and personal stories told by a concerned father and his middle-school son, and by a sex-trafficking victim, the House Rules Committee brought it up for a vote with only three delegates voted in favor (thank you Delegates Sally Jameson, Susan McComas and Warren Miller), and the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee did not even bring it up for a vote!

Lessons learned? First, that it is exceptionally difficult to see progress on these kinds of efforts on what seems controversial to some, or this kind of legislation in Maryland, especially on the first attempt. MCAP was also told resolutions do not get passed very often. The chairman of one of the committees suggested perhaps the framing of the issue was too broad or over-generalized, and that perhaps we ought to focus on a narrower sliver, perhaps the most extreme crime of the problems or crimes related to porn, e.g. child rape, about which there might be a consensus among legislators. Yet this measure has passed in 10 other states across the country and is pending in numerous others.

Readers, let us hear from you – we have sponsors willing to introduce it again next session, but does it seem like too big a hurdle? Did you sign our petition, and if not, will you? **Please** see:

<https://www.thepetitionsite.com/437/665/759/?src=ref&campaign=http%3A%2F%2Fmcap1.com%2F>

Even more to the point of need, would you volunteer to help us, to contact or meet with committee

members to ask for support, or perhaps even bring a testimony to a hearing in winter, 2019? Contact us at [mcapinc@juno.com](mailto:mcapinc@juno.com) or 301-439-8475.



Sen. Serafini presenting SJ1 in the Judicial Proceedings Committee



Del. Susan McComas, House sponsor of HJR 9



Del Neil Parrott, House sponsor of HJR 5

To follow developments on this or other legislation being monitored by MCAP, you can see <http://mcap1.com/mcap/legislation> for links to status web pages.

We desperately need new volunteers and board members! Won't you consider stepping forward? Contact us at [mcapinc@juno.com](mailto:mcapinc@juno.com).

### **Backpage.com and Other Sex-Trafficking Web Sites Taken Down – Victory!**

Good news! Congress finally acted, passing the long-sought-after amendments to the Communications Decency Act, which will enable prosecution of many providers or facilitators of online sex trafficking. Following the passage of H.R. 1865 (FOSTA: Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act) by the U.S. Senate in March, a domino effect took place. Websites that had been knowingly facilitating sex trafficking were shutting down 'Personals' sections that have historically been used to sell children and women like chatel for sex! This news came within hours of the Senate vote to overwhelmingly pass this landmark legislation (92-2), sending a loud message that the days of using the Internet to sell sex ads exploiting women and children are coming to an end. Sites like Craigslist, Reddit, Erotic Review, and others have acted and shut down their sex ads! Reddit banned posts like "Escorts," "Male Escorts," "Hookers" and "SugarDaddy" shortly after the bill was passed. Federal and state authorities seized Backpage.com, an online classifieds site frequently accused of facilitating sex trafficking, and reportedly indicted seven people.

### **Tots to Teens:**

MCAP had an exhibit table on May 5, at the **2018 Tots to Teens Conference**, which was in Prince Georges County this Sports and Learning Complex in Landover, near Fed Ex field.



### **Speakers' Bureau**

Matt Raeder, counselor, spoke at Grace Community Church in Fulton, Md. See his presentation at <https://vimeo.com/263381756>

Matt Aujero spoke at the April 2018 Conference

to End Sexual Exploitation (CESE).

### **BIO:**

Married to his wife Mimi in 2013, Matt Aujero's mission is to create a better, purified world for his two daughters and the next generation. That same year, Matt created Fight Club, a purity accountability program for college men through his work at the Catholic Student Center at the University of Maryland. Matt's addiction recovery story and Mimi's journey with him has been featured by Fight the New Drug and co-written in Matt Fradd's book *Restored: True Stories of Love and Trust After Porn*.

### **PRESENTATION TITLE:**

*Fight Club: An accountability recovery model for college men*

### **PRESENTATION DESCRIPTION:**

Created in 2013, more than 50 college males have cycled through Fight Club, an accountability recovery program for porn addiction. Through the ministry at the Catholic Student Center at University of Maryland, Fight Club members strive to fight for God, fight for her (their future spouse) and fight for each other, motivating members with a clear yes to their end of porn. In addition to ridding men of the addiction, Fight Club's main goal is to help them clearly see God and their individual calling. This has helped four previous members to not only find sobriety but also their calling to enter seminary and study priesthood. With an emphasis on tracking daily prayer, accountability, and a pragmatic awareness of behavior change called the Battle Plan, members in this underground group have found huge strides in achieving freedom.

### **When Should Kids Have Cell Phones? Savvy Parents Reveal Best Strategies**

*by Kristen Jensen, Protect Young Minds | Jun 5, 2018*

At what age should kids have cell phones? That's something all parents are wondering today! Are there guidelines that will make your decision easier? Or ingenious new products that can give your child the ability to call you without granting them total access to the internet?

Yes!

We asked members of our Facebook Parent Discussion group: "What age do you let your children get a cell phone? And why?" The responses were brilliant! In fact, one of the parents recommended the discussion be included in a parenting manual. For now, let's start with an information-packed blog post!

### **Should Kids Have Cell Phones? Many Parents Have Good Reasons.**

1. Safety and a parent's peace of mind. One parent was going back to work and wanted her child to have a phone to be able to call at any time. Another parent wanted her child to have a cell phone for

safety while they were riding the bus to and from school, explaining, “We needed the sense and security that she could get a hold of us if she needed anything.” Another mom felt her daughter should have a phone when she went babysitting, since fewer and fewer people have landlines anymore.

2. To use at school for class work. Apparently, some teachers are asking kids to use their personal devices to do in-class research. However, a teacher in our Facebook group pointed out that kids should not be required to use their personal devices in class. If students in your child’s class are being asked to look up information on their personal devices: “You should feel free to address this with the principal, as that is certainly not school policy to have students using their personal devices to do significant amounts of research . . . .”

### Linking Cell Phones with Responsibility.

Several parents have a policy that their children need to be old enough to pay for their own phone and monthly service. “I think it is very easy to be trained to take certain conveniences for granted and this one is costly in up-front and month-to-month costs . . .” Another mom commented, “If he [her son] wants a smartphone, he’ll have to wait until he can pay for it on his own.”

A few parents tied the use of a smartphone to certain milestones and conditions: “None of our kids got phones before 16. Only then if they kept good grades and a job so they could pay for their phone. We paid the basic plan fees so the phone still belonged to us and they were renting it to use each month. If poor grades or behavior get their phone taken away, they do not get a refund.”

Other parents require a signed contract and enforce consequences for not keeping the rules. “When we gave phones to our boys, we had them sign an acceptable usage contract and we made sure they understood it. They both have had infractions that caused them to lose their phones 1x each.”

Several parents brought up the Wait Until 8th initiative: “The Wait Until 8th pledge empowers parents to rally together to delay giving children a smartphone until at least 8th grade. By banding together, this will decrease the pressure felt by kids and parents alike over the kids having a smartphone.” Even Bill Gates did not allow his kids to have phones until they were 14!

### Cell Phone Alternatives

It’s clear that many parents in the group are not comfortable granting kids a pocket portal to the internet. Happily, there are alternatives! Here are some hardware and software solutions suggestions.

**Gizmo Gadget by LG through Verizon, GPS watches from Verizon.** \$149 each but only \$5 a

month on your cell plan. It allows up to 10 contacts to call and receive calls. You can send short texts, locate it via GPS, and monitor it from an app on your phone. It has options for simple fitness tracking. Waterproof, too! Available in Red or Navy.

**GizmoPal 2 (\$79) by LG through Verizon**, can only call 4 programmed numbers and only those 4 numbers can call them, with a GPS tracker. Available in Pink or Blue. It sends notifications if your child crosses set GPS boundaries. Waterproof.

**Relay by Republic Wireless** (\$149 for 2 devices, \$199 for 3 devices, \$99 for an add-on device). A screen-free “walkie talkie” device able to be put in a pocket. Water resistant; single-button communication, nationwide range. Can speak messages to text to your phone. Comes in several colors. \$6.99 a month service charge per device. More functionality coming (music, games, Google assistant, etc.).

### Mobile Phone Tech Solutions

If you decide your child *is* ready for a cell phone, there are lots of great tech options to help! These go along with ongoing conversations about how kids are using their phones.

**Flip phones (aka voice phones):** still available and can be a great option to allow calling and texting without internet access. Some teens find they prefer them!

**Pre-paid phones:** you can start with a less-expensive pre-paid phone that will limit the amount of data and minutes able to be used. Search online for “prepaid phones” and you’ll find several affordable options. Be sure you can also set up some parental controls with these phones!

**iPhone Parental Controls:** be sure to set up the iPhone parental controls that are already on the phone. You can restrict apps, content types, privacy settings, cellular data use, and more.

**Android Parental Controls:** With the free Google Family Link app, you can restrict apps, manage SafeSearch, control app permissions, set screen time limits, see the phone location, and more.

**Disney Circle and Circle Go:** *Circle* manages all the devices using Wi-Fi in your home, while *Circle Go* adds protection to mobile phones when kids use 4G LTE and Wi-Fi networks away from home. Both services include filters, time limits and even a feature to reward kids! (Circle is a one-time cost of \$99, add on Circle Go for \$4.99 per month for 10 devices)

**Covenant Eyes:** For some teens, accountability software is a valuable tool. Covenant Eyes doesn’t filter the content on phones but sends a report of internet activity to a parent or other accountability partner so that they can talk about it with their child. (\$15.99 per month for everyone in your family).

*We’re all in this together, so please share this post with your friends and family!*

# ACTION BOX

- [ ] Join MCAP and the fun coming up on Tues., Aug 7, 6-8 pm, when we participate in the Bowie Police Dept.'s National Night Out, to promote crime prevention strategies for all and public safety challenges. Free family fun with various children's activities including a moon bounce, music, home security, identity theft info, child ID kits and more. Don't forget to dunk the chief! For more info, call 240-544-5792.
  
- [ ] Please consider joining our MCAP board of officers and help with important decisions on where and how to best direct our efforts! Contact Bob Kammer at 301-847-9820 or email us at [mcapinc@juno.com](mailto:mcapinc@juno.com)

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A membership in MCAP is \$15 per year. This entitles you to receive the annual printed newsletter. All contributions to MCAP are tax deductible. Your subscription expiration month appears in the upper right of your mailing label. Please send renewal payments to: M.C.A.P., P.O. Box 2868, Silver Spring, MD 20915-2868. Any donations are much needed and appreciated!



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