

Making a Difference

Newsletter for
Maryland Coalition Against Pornography, Inc.

MCAP Hotline: 301-439-8475
www.mcap1.com



TOGETHERWE CARE

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Winter 2020

Maryland General Assembly dealing now with Sexting by Minors and Child Porn Possession

The problem of minors using their cell phones to transmit sexually explicit images of others or themselves blew up last year in Maryland when a teen girl was convicted on child porn charges (as reported in our [last newsletter](#)). As predicted, bills have been introduced in both houses of the General Assembly attempting to address this difficult and disturbing problem, a fast-growing trend among teens. MCAP is following all of these and expects to present testimony at soon-upcoming hearings.

We applaud the efforts of the sponsors of these bills (see below). The most in-depth bill, 21 pages long, is Senator Susan Lee's [SB 365](#), and is cross-filed in the house, HB 501. It aims to balance the need to prevent creation and distribution of child pornography, protect minors from being coerced into sending images of themselves, and prevent minors from being *criminally* prosecuted for what has become a far-too-common practice.

MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY		Legislative Services Legislative Audits													
MEMBERS		COMMITTEES		MEETINGS		LEGISLATION		BUDGET		LAWS		FLOOR ACTIONS		SEARCH & ARCHIVES	
(Cross/Chapter)	Title	Sponsor	Current Status	Hearings	Hearings										
HB0272	Criminal Law - Obscene Matter - Sexting by Minor	Delegate Clippinger	In the House - First Reading Judiciary	Judiciary											
HB0501 (SB0365)	Criminal Law - Child Pornography and Exhibition and Display of Obscene Items to Minors	Delegate Moon	In the House - First Reading Judiciary	Judiciary											
HB0623	Criminal Law - Possession of Child Pornography - Penalty	Delegate Lopez	In the House - Hearing 2/18 at 1:00 p.m.	Judiciary	2/18/2020 - 1:00 PM										
SB0045	Criminal Law - Child Pornography - Distribution, Creation, or Possession by Minor Subject	Senator Waldstreicher	In the Senate - Hearing 2/11 at 12:00 p.m.	Judicial Proceedings	2/11/2020 - 12:00 PM										
SB0365 (HB0501)	Criminal Law - Child Pornography and Exhibition and Display of Obscene Items to Minors	Senator Lee	In the Senate - Hearing 2/11 at 12:00 p.m.	Judicial Proceedings	2/11/2020 - 12:00 PM										

PORN – IT *STILL* NEEDS TO BE RECOGNIZED AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

MCAP will try yet *again* to urge passage of a resolution, [HJ 2](#) in our Maryland General Assembly, to declare pornography to be a public health crisis. [Fifteen states](#) in the U.S. have passed such resolutions over the last 4 years, hopefully paving the way to further research and education about this very important plague that is damaging so many families, individuals, relationships, livelihoods, and especially, our youth. It feeds into human trafficking and, in the hands of predators, it is used as the *worst kind of sex education*, often to groom innocent children and the mentally challenged. The explosion of sexting referenced above is another related, sad symptom, as is the growing problem of child-on-child sexually problematic behavior and assault, e.g by older siblings on younger ones, and baby-sitter treatment of the children they are supposed to be caring for. Read more – see the excellent [summation](#) as well as a longer, [thorough discussion](#) of fact-based research findings from the National Center on Sexual Exploitation. **Please** sign our [petition](#), if you have not already!

HJ 2

The screenshot shows the Maryland General Assembly website interface. At the top, there is a search bar and social media icons. Below the navigation menu, a progress bar indicates the legislative process for HJ0002. The current stage is 'REFERRAL TO CMTE'. The bill's title is 'Exposure to Pornography - Public Health Crisis', and it is sponsored by 13 delegates: Parrott, Arentz, Arkan, Cox, Griffith, Hartman, Jacobs, Krebs, Malone, McComas, Metzgar, Miller, Rose, and Shoemaker. The status is 'In the House - First Reading House Rules and Executive Nominations'. The synopsis states: 'Recognizing that exposure to pornography is a public health crisis that must be addressed systematically; recognizing that it is necessary to prevent pornography exposure and addiction, to educate individuals and families on the harms of pornography, and to develop pornography recovery programs; and encouraging pornography education, prevention, research, and policy changes in communities in order to address the harms caused by pornography.'

Thanks to Delegate Neil Parrott (this is his third year of attempting to move this resolution forward) and the 13 co-sponsors. **MCAP COULD USE YOUR HELP!** We wish to urge passage by contacting 21 of the House Rules Committee Members and using an [online petition](#). If you would like to help further by personally meeting with legislators or attending hearings, contact us at mcapinc@juno.com or calling 301-439-8475. The members are Anne [Healey](#) (chair), Marvin [Holmes](#) (vice chair), Vanessa [Atterbear](#), Ben [Barnes](#), Kumar [Barve](#), Talmadge [Branch](#), Luke [Clippinger](#), Dereck [Davis](#), Kathleen [Dumais](#), Michael [Jackson](#), Anne [Kaiser](#), Nicholaus [Kipke](#), Eric [Luedtke](#), Maggie [McIntosh](#), Nick [Mosby](#), Joseline [Pena-Melnyk](#), Shane [Pendergrass](#), Sheree [Sample-Hughes](#), Dana [Stein](#), Kathy [Szeliga](#), and Alonzo [Washington](#).

The General Assembly is also dealing with numerous bills aimed at curtailing human trafficking. See <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/SubjectIndex/humantraff>

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COMMITTEES	MEETINGS	LEGISLATION	BUDGET	LAWS	FLOOR ACTIONS
Bill/Chapter (Cross/Chapter)	Title	Sponsor	Current Status	Org Committees & Hearing	
HB0242 (SB0206)	Criminal Procedure - Motion to Vacate Judgment - Human Trafficking (True Freedom Act of 2020)	Delegate Alterbeary	In the House - Hearing 1/28 at 1:00 p.m.	Judiciary 1/28/2020 - 1:00 PM	
HB0382	Business Regulation - Innkeepers - Records and Human Trafficking Awareness Training	Delegate Ebersole	In the House - Hearing 2/11 at 1:00 p.m.	Economic Matters 2/11/2020 - 1:00 PM	
HB0459	Criminal Law - Victims of Human Trafficking - Affirmative Defense	Delegate Cain	In the House - Hearing 2/11 at 1:00 p.m.	Judiciary 2/11/2020 - 1:00 PM	
HB0575	Education - Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program - Human and Sex Trafficking	Delegate Johnson	In the House - First Reading Ways and Means	Ways and Means	
HJ0007 (SJ0001)	2026 FIFA World Cup - Protection of Human Rights	Delegate Pena-Melnyk	In the House - First Reading House Rules and Executive Nominations	Rules and Executive Nominations	
SB0206 (HB0242)	Criminal Procedure - Motion to Vacate Judgment - Human Trafficking (True Freedom Act of 2020)	Senator Lee	In the Senate - Hearing 1/29 at 1:00 p.m.	Judicial Proceedings 1/29/2020 - 1:00 PM	
SJ0001 (HJ0007)	2026 FIFA World Cup - Protection of Human Rights	Senator McCray	In the Senate - Hearing 2/14 at 12:00 p.m.	Judicial Proceedings 2/14/2020 - 12:00 PM	

To give credit where credit is due, there was Maryland legislation passed in 2019 intended to curtail child erotica, for which sponsors are to be thanked. See a good article about the rationale for that [here](#). Thanks go out to Montgomery County Del. Lesley Lopez and Sen. Susan Lee, as well as Del. C.T. Wilson (Charles County) and Del. Jesse Pippy (Frederick County), who also worked on updating the language in Maryland's child pornography laws to include lascivious acts and computer-generated images.

For families concerned about the dangers involved with teens misusing smart phones, there is a new type of cell phone to consider with just the essentials - phone, texting, calendar, alarm and calculator: [Gabb Wireless phone](#) can limit access to the excesses of technology, too soon for many youth. No Internet, games, social media, no app store, no picture messages. no group texting.

[Protect Young Minds](#) - This organization's web site has an abundance of resources and advice to build the resilience of children to porn, advise families to deal with online dangers before and after exposure, and train activists on ways to advocate. Videos, books, PDF's, a blog, checklists, and more. Here's a timely example, given the family-unfriendly nature of the Super Bowl half-time show that featured skimpy attire and sexually-themed performance (even pole dancing): [Booty Shaking & Sexy Costumes in Children's Dance: How to Find Healthy Studios That Won't Objectify Your Kid.](#)

ACTION BOX

- [] The Executive Board has several opportunities for you to learn how to advocate for decency in the fight against pornography. We are looking for volunteer helpers to mentor in areas of public education, lobbying State and Local elected officials and general association management. We have a solid team and are looking to expand our reach. Anyone interested in joining in this exciting endeavor, please call 301-439-8475 or email us at mcapinc@juno.com.
- [] Contact 21 of the members of the Maryland General Assembly [House Rules Committee](#) (except Delegates Beitzel, McComas, and Miller who voted in favor last year) to ask that they please vote in favor of **HJ 2**, to declare pornography to be a public health crisis. If you have not yet done so, *please* sign our [petition](#).

Making a Difference is published quarterly online and printed once a year. 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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Maryland Coalition Against Pornography

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