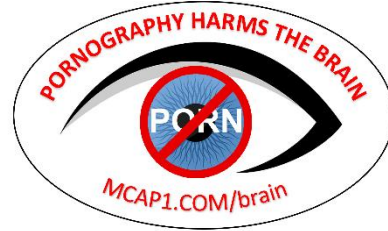


# Making a Difference



Newsletter for  
Maryland Coalition Against Pornography, Inc.

MCAP Hotline: 301-439-8475

TOGETHER WE CARE

[www.mcap1.com](http://www.mcap1.com) or en Espanol: [www.mcap1.com/Espanol](http://www.mcap1.com/Espanol).

Vol. 35, No. 3 Montgomery and Prince George Counties

Fall 2020/Winter 2021

## **Maryland General Assembly Goes Back to Work**

MCAP is closely tracking and providing testimony on the [bills](#) on juvenile sexting being considered by the Maryland General Assembly. The [House Judiciary Committee](#) hearing on January 21 was held via Zoom, and of the three bills offered, the most sensible one seems to be [HB180](#). It is a problem growing so fast that it is nearly out of control and very difficult to tackle. Most lawmakers and witnesses agree that the genie is out of the bottle, and more needs to be done to educate young people about the dangers. Stay tuned to hear more developments.

## **Online child sex abuse image postings spiked by 31% in 2020**

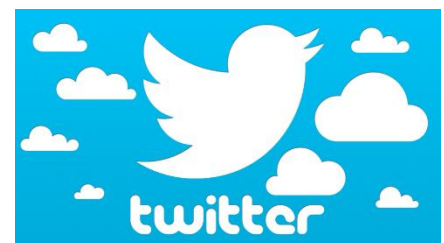
At least 13 million disturbing images were posted on Facebook and Instagram, much of it hosted on Facebook and Instagram, according to data shared exclusively with Insider. Figures from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) showed a 31% increase in the number of images of child sexual abuse reported to them in 2020. The figure was up by around 5 million, from 16 million reports in 2020 to 21 million in 2021. In 2019, Facebook recorded more child sexual abuse material than any other tech company, and was responsible for around 99% of all reports to the NCMEC.

*Comment by MCAP – a million here, a million there, pretty soon you’re talking real numbers! MILLIONS!!! When will the platform providers be called to task?!*

## **Twitter hit with Groundbreaking Sex Trafficking Lawsuit**

Twitter, one of the most popular social media sites in the world with over 330 million users, has had a hand in the sexual exploitation of countless victims of abuse, coercion, and objectification on their platform. On behalf of one of these victims, John Doe, that the National Center on Sexual Exploitation Law Center (NCOSE)—along with The Haba Law Firm and The Matiasic Law Firm—has filed a federal lawsuit against Twitter for its complicity in sex trafficking by knowingly distributing and profiting from child sexual abuse material of Doe.

John Doe was 16 years old when he learned that sexually graphic videos of himself—which were made under the duress of fraud and coercion of an online predator when Doe was 13 and 14-years-old—had been posted to Twitter. John Doe’s mother, Jane Doe, stepped in and contacted the authorities, the school, and Twitter. Using Twitter’s reporting system, which according to their policies is supposedly designed to catch and stop illegal material like child sexual abuse material (CSAM) from being posted, they communicated and verified to Twitter that John Doe was a minor and the videos needed to be taken down immediately. Instead of the videos being removed, Twitter chose to do nothing and even went so far as to report back to John Doe that the video in question did not violate any of their policies. This lack of care and proper attention resulted in the CSAM of John Doe accumulating over 167,000 views



before direct involvement from a law enforcement officer finally convinced Twitter to remove the offending material.

Every single one of those views was another blow to John Doe and could have been prevented by Twitter. John Doe is now suing Twitter for their involvement in and profit from his sexual exploitation which, according to the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPA), violated federal law on sex trafficking. Twitter clearly has no motivation to properly address the egregious issues of exploitation and abuse happening throughout their platform, and this case is only the tip of the iceberg.

## ***Mastercard, Visa and Discover cut ties with Pornhub following allegations of child abuse***

Mastercard, Visa and Discover are blocking customers from using their companies' credit cards to make purchases on Pornhub. This comes after allegations were made against the pornographic website in a New York Times column on December 4 accusing the site of showing videos of child abuse and nonconsensual sexual behavior.

American Express has prohibited its cards from being accepted on Pornhub as part of a longstanding policy on "digital adult content sites." PayPal cut its payment services to the site in 2019.



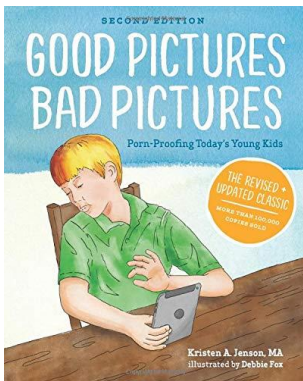
Also a group of federal lawmakers led by Senator Josh Hawley introduced federal legislation that would allow victims of sexual assault, trafficking and revenge porn to sue sites like Pornhub that host such content on their platforms. Republican Sens. Josh Hawley of Missouri and Ben Sasse of Nebraska are leading the charge against Pornhub and human trafficking allegedly linked to the porn behemoth. On Dec. 9, the "Survivors of Human Trafficking Fight Back Act of 2020," S. 4983, was introduced, along with Democratic New Hampshire Sen. Maggie Hassan and Republican Sens. Thom Tillis of North Carolina and Joni Ernst of Iowa.

Sasse sent a letter to Attorney General William Barr in March requesting an investigation into the company, pointing to a slew of high-profile incidents involving sexual exploitation on the platform, including a case from last year in which Florida police arrested a man on charges of sex crimes against an underage girl who was missing for nearly a year before her mother learned that 60 pornographic videos of her had been posted to Pornhub, Snapchat, Periscope and ModelHub. He said the DOJ "needs to open an investigation into the scumbags who run Mindgeek," Pornhub's parent company. More details can be read in a lengthy [Fox News article](#).

## ***MCAP Board Election***

Board President Bob Kammer reluctantly has had to step down for health reasons, after having served in that capacity for 11 years. MCAP is pleased to announce that V.P. Mary Modderman was elected to take his place. Her position remains vacant for the time being and we are still appealing to any of our members who would be interested in serving on the board to step forward and volunteer. Please contact us at [mcapinc@juno.com](mailto:mcapinc@juno.com) or 301-439-8475. Our meetings are being conducted via Zoom technology at this time during the pandemic, usually Saturday mornings, once a month.

## ***Efforts Continue to Distribute the children's book GOOD PICTURES, BAD PICTURES: Porn-Proofing Today's Young Kids***



Earlier in 2020, MCAP launched a project to try to get this excellent children's book into public and school libraries throughout Maryland. Thank you, donors, who generously helped fund this endeavor! It has had some success, but is well short of 100%. Where it has succeeded, it has been well-received, with thanks. Some of the slowness of progress we attribute to the closures of schools and libraries, and therefore a lack of ability to communicate or follow up on offers, but we wish to persevere, and make follow-up emails and phone calls. Libraries have partially re-opened in many places, and logjams are starting to break free. Would anyone like to help? Please contact Peggy Cairns, 301-649-4053, or email [mcapinc@juno.com](mailto:mcapinc@juno.com).

## Truckers Against Trafficking – some positive news



If you have patronized the Maryland MVA, you may have noticed, on the bottom of your receipt, information about this national non-profit organization. [TAT](https://truckersagainstrafficking.org/) (<https://truckersagainstrafficking.org/>) trains truck drivers to recognize and report instances of human trafficking. A half-hour introductory training video is available to watch free from their web site provides eye-opening background about the tactics used by traffickers, particularly at truck stops or other transportation hubs.

Their goals: to educate, equip, empower and mobilize members of the trucking, bus and energy industries to combat human trafficking; to saturate trucking and related industries with TAT materials, and to partner with law enforcement and government agencies to facilitate investigation of human trafficking. A hotline for reporting suspicious activity is 888-373-7888. Know any truckers who might want to be trained and certified? Please call 612-888-2050.

### Gryphon

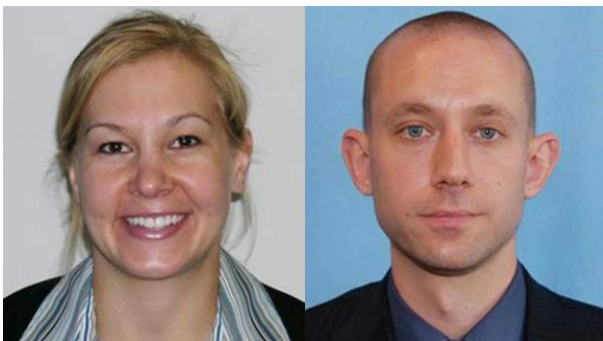
Introducing a router with parental controls that are built around user profiles that can be created by filling in a name, age group and a photo. Underneath are places to control the web filter, SafeSearch, store browsing history and set an internet-free bedtime. Concerned parents can use it to restrict access to several social media apps during a designated homework time, including Facebook, as well as Hulu and games, like Minecraft. A parent can see what websites a child is visiting, but also choose to selectively allow access to otherwise denied online resources if a need arises.

To manage a device, tap Unmanaged Devices and select the device from the list. Next, assign it to a User or a Guest, or add a new user. You can also assign it to a Family group, which assigns the same parental controls to each device in the group. When you create a new User, you will be prompted to pick an age group with specific parental control filters, among them Toddler, Elementary School, Middle School, High School, Adult (18+), and Unrestricted (unfiltered). You can further enhance protection by enabling the Safe Search/YouTube filter that prevents access to adult content, and by enabling the Store Browsing History option that allows parents to view their children's browsing history. (This is automatically disabled for adults and guests.)



Other parental controls on the Gryphon system include Bedtime, which allows parents to shut down internet access at a specific time of day, and Homework Time, which allows parents to schedule a time of day when online access is limited to websites required for school work. If your child finishes assigned homework early, he/she can visit the GryphonCare website to request normal access. This sends a notification to the parents' mobile app, where they can end the Homework time limits on an as-needed basis. You can also allow/disallow access to numerous apps during normal and home time, including Facebook, YouTube, Hulu, Minecraft, Netflix, Pandora, and more.

### **In Tribute to FBI Special Agents Laura Schwartzenberger and Daniel Alfin**



These 2 heroes, veterans in the mind-numbing battle against victimizers of children, were killed by David Lee Huber in Miami on Tues., Feb. 2. Three others were wounded while serving a search warrant for child pornography. Huber then committed suicide. Read more [here](#). Alfin, 36, worked crimes against children cases for six years,. He is survived by his wife and one child. Schwartzenberger, 43, spent seven years investigating crimes against children. She had a husband and two children.

# ACTION BOX

- [+] Contact members of the House Judiciary Committee, especially if you reside in one of their districts, to ask their support of HB 180 on sexting by minors.
- [+] Volunteer! We are very much in need board members and helpers with contacting local libraries to recommend that they acquire or accept donations of the children's book, GOOD PICTURES, BAD PICTURES by Kristen Jenson.

*Making a Difference* is published quarterly online and printed once a year. Editor: Peggy Cairns. 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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