Making a Difference

The quarterly newsletter of the Maryland Coalition Against Pornography, Inc.



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www.mcap1.com or en español: www.mcap1.com/español

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HB 194 failed to advance

Our last newsletter spoke with hope about how the entire Maryland House of Delegates had passed HB 194, a bill intended to require Maryland public schools incorporate instruction about the risks of sexting within the existing Family Life and Human Sexuality curriculum. The next step in the process was for it to go before the pertinent Senate committee for a hearing. MCAP submitted supportive testimony on March 23. Sadly, the bill never was brought up for a vote. As has been observed in the past, the chair of the committee wields quite an influence of the fate of any bill, by way of this power of simply "putting it in the drawer" and thereby, effectively killing it. An individual can erect a roadblock to the efforts of the entire House of Delegates. MCAP inquired why. We heard this - that Chairman Paul Pinsky of the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee raised a concern that, while many issues are important to educate youth about, school curriculum can only include so much. During session, bills for curriculum on sexting, human trafficking, and others were all introduced, and there was concern about the reality of being able to include all of these topics in a limited curriculum. The bill's sponsor, Delegate Shetty, does plan to re-introduce this effort next year. Another approach could be to make this appeal at the county level, whereby MCAP would share our concerns directly with any respective Boards of Education. If any of our MCAP readers are interested to help write letters, please email us at mcapinc@mcap1.com.

New books

<u>Protecting your Children from Internet Pornography</u> by John Foubert. Read an interview with the author here. Foubert exposes the many ways that pornography is menacing people, relationships, society, and—especially—our children. Understand issues like how pornography affects the brain, how pornography is a recipe for sexual violence, and why you should take measures to protect your children. Practical suggestions at the end of each chapter give readers advice on how to apply the information. It is time for a national conversation about what pornography is really all

about. Foubert's book opens the door on that discussion and invites readers to join the battle against it. You will be disturbed, shocked, motivated, and empowered to make a difference after reading this book. Excerpt here.

Good Pictures, Bad Pictures for Professionals by Kristen Jenson. Therapeutic and Educational Interventions with Didactic, Artistic, and Kinesthetic Applications, a 67-page companion to the Amazon #1 Best Seller, Good Pictures, Bad Pictures: Porn-Proofing Today's Young Kids*. a read-aloud story about a mom and dad who explain what pornography is, why it's dangerous, and how to reject it. This book provides a natural and comfortable way to talk to your kids about pornography, in a newly revised edition. Featuring easy-to-understand science and simple analogies, this internationally-acclaimed book which has been translated into several languages, engages young kids to porn-proof their own brains.

MCAP wishes to place this into the hands of counselors, workers in child advocacy centers who deal with traumatized children, and trainers in government agencies who try to help prevent child trafficking. We need help reaching out to potential recipients to make offers of free copies. If you would like to help us, please contact Peggy Cairns, mcapinc@mcap1.com, or call 301-910-1534. *Our efforts to place the GP, BP book into Maryland county public libraries have been successful in all but 4 of Maryland's library systems. Sadly, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Cecil and Montgomery Counties have refused even free copies. The reasoning has been hard to fathom and often shallow. Vague concerns were expressed that the title says "bad pictures" and seems to be shaming someone or something, which is not the approach of the author at all. Or they say they must obtain it from approved vendors, and it is unavailable from such suppliers, or that a comparable title is already available, which turns out not to be true, because the title they think is comparable turns out to be for a parent to read, whereas this book is aimed for use with children (hence the illustrations aimed at kids). We need more parents to ask for it to be added to to these libraries, and if you get a "sorry, no thank you" reply from the library, ask WHY? Most of these libraries have questionable adult content books like "50 Shades of Grey" or worse, how do they rationalize refusing content that is actually helpful for children and parents?

The "Brave Movement" targets Facebook Chairman, Mark Zuckerberg

Facebook/Meta Shareholders Advocacy Action

Sarah Cooper, a survivor of sex trafficking who was contacted by a predator through Facebook Messenger, gave a heartfelt speech at the 2021 Facebook annual shareholder meeting in which she described the link between Facebook and her own horrific ordeal. Read or listen to Sarah's statement.

Since 2019 Facebook/Metainvestors have filed shareholder resolutions that ask the

company to report on "the risk of increased sexual exploitation of children as the Company develops and offers additional privacy tools such as end-to-end encryption." Resolutions are voted on at the annual shareholder meeting to raise concern about corporate actions. In 2021, the Child Sexual Assault Material (CSAM) resolution at Facebook garnered the support of nearly 980 million shares worth about \$321 billion in stock value (based on the closing stock price of the day of the annual meeting). That represents 56% of the non-Zuckerberg controlled vote.

Yet Mark Zuckerberg is the majority shareholder in Meta as well as the CEO and Chairman of the Board. Without his support, change cannot be implemented. With the support of the BRAVE movement, Mark Zuckerberg will be called on to be BRAVE and implement safety measures on all Meta platforms utilized by children, these include:

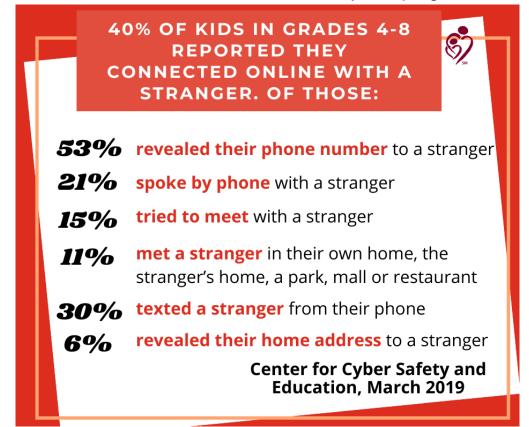
Increase Content Monitoring to remove CSAM Improve age verification to prevent grooming and CSAM

Work in tighter cooperation with law enforcement to help victims and apprehend predators.

Learn more about the Meta/Facebook shareholder campaign to end online child sexual exploitation. See https://www.bravemovement.org/, especially the "BeBraveZuck" project - https://www.bravemovement.org/bebrave_zuck

June is Internet Safety Month

Consider these statistics! The <u>Internet Safety 101</u> program can help.



ACTION BOX



Particular help is needed with computer screen tasks, telephoning and newsletter formatting. **Please** call Peggy Cairns, 301-439-8475, or email mcapinc@mcap1.com if you wish to serve. Also, our monthly board meetings are easy to attend as they are virtual, on Zoom. We would love to have volunteers to serve as board members.



If you are on Facebook, do "like" <u>MCAP's page</u>, keep current on events and developments with issues we are following, and share with others.

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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