

# Making a Difference

The quarterly newsletter of the MARYLAND COALITION  
AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY, Inc.



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

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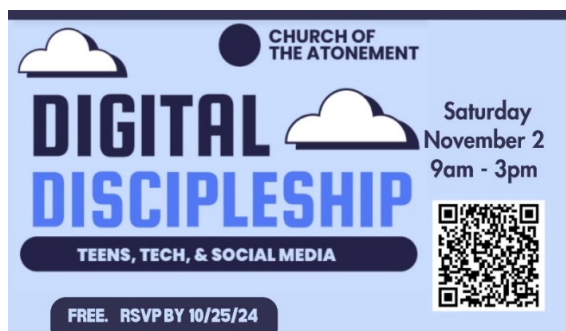
## MCAP – Keeping Our Name and more news!

Why? Our Summer Newsletter spoke about the idea of changing MCAP's name to Guarding Eyes for Maryland (GEM). But after some consideration, debate and opinions, the majority opinion preferred we keep our name as MCAP, the MARYLAND COALITION AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY, the name makes our mission to oppose pornography clear, and retains our name recognition, which was established back in 1986. Online searches for help to fight porn find us more easily as well. Thank you to all who responded with an opinion and we hope those who preferred GEM will understand our decision. We may put the numeral 0 in the word pornography purposefully, to see if it helps our emails work around filtering and land in inboxes, not in spam folders.

Your donations have enabled MCAP to hire help to start a *new web site* in beta form! Check it out: <https://www.protect-maryland-kids.com/> better organizes our resources designed to help protect youth. We hope to continue this for our entire set of web pages for advocacy, education for all ages, and helping people who are struggling to break free find counseling and support. Please consider a tax-deductible donation to help with this project! You can donate electronically via [Paypal](#) link on our homepage MCAP1.com or without a fee, via this link [www.protect-maryland-kids.com/donate](http://www.protect-maryland-kids.com/donate) for [Zeffy](#), or send a check to P.O. Box 2868, Silver Spring, MD 20915-2868.

## TRAININGS

### [Digital Discipleship](#) event Nov. 2, 9 am – 3 pm



Research says that youth are spending 8.5 hours a day engaged with screens, a trend contributing to anxiety, stress, depression, suicide and risky behaviors. Guest speaker [Dr. Walt Mueller](#) will offer faith-based insights about the decline in spiritual, relational and emotional health along with strategies to help kids manage their devices rather than allowing devices to manage them. Free lunch, snacks, and child care provided, but please **register by Oct. 25** using the QR code, or email

[logan@atonementlife.org](mailto:logan@atonementlife.org) or call (864) 684-9491. Location: Presbyterian Church of the Atonement, 10613 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, 20902. Invite friends!

**Police Officer Joe Dugan** will be presenting on Internet Safety at the Edgewood branch of the Harford Co Public Library, 6:30-7:30 PM. Joe Dugan has 37 years of Law Enforcement Experience. The last seven years of his career was as a Child Abuse/ICAC (Internet Crimes Against Children) Detective at the Harford County Sheriff's Office. He now works as an Internet Safety Specialist with the Maryland

State Police. More info, see <https://www.linkedin.com/in/joe-dugan-9475a847/> He discusses the many ways children can find themselves in trouble on the internet, such as, loss of privacy, exposure to graphic content both from imagery and online games. He touches on the subject of youth creating and sharing CSAM (Child Sexual Abuse Material, also referred to as child pornography) and how this can create a lifelong problem for them. We will also talk about the dangers of Online Predators and how a child's need to feel they belong puts them at risk

### Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation (CESE) Summit Highlights from August in DC



Jo St. George & Peggy Cairns

Marv Modderman, Matt Auiero & Peggy Cairns

Peggy & 2 Arkansas colleagues

Members of MCAP participated in the Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation (CESE) Summit in August at the DC Hyatt Regency. We heard from many nationally renowned activists and victim survivors in the cause, and visited Congressional offices to plead in person for passage of some of the bills listed below, even through rain on the last day. Sadly, we learned of new dangers and problems. Particularly heart-breaking was a story told in person by a father, John DeMay, who related the online sextortion of his 17-year-old son, Jordan. A [news video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjCigpcAMV4) (5 minutes – see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjCigpcAMV4>) covers the methods used by the con artists in Nigeria posing as a teen girl requesting “nudes” (explicit photos) of him, then threatening to make them go viral, leading to Jordan’s suicide. The Dept. of Justice issued a press release about the [Nigerians being prosecuted](#) and extradited.

At the summit it was encouraging to see the active involvement of so many and to hear how technology is also being used for GOOD, including AI. There was more than can be detailed in this newsletter, but if you would like to learn more, see this article: [“The 2024 CESE Summit: Igniting a Renaissance for Human Dignity”](#) Thank you, National Center On Sexual Exploitation and Fight the New Drug, for all your hard work gathering these experts and hosting!

More good news - some of the following *bipartisan* U.S. Congressional bills that have been passed out of the Senate or the Senate Judiciary Committee, a major hurdle toward becoming law! Please see below for information and use the links (see the **words in red** below) to appeal to your federal Representative to support these actions being taken.

- ❖ Project Safe Childhood Act, ([S. 1170/H.R. 2661](#)) holds platforms accountable if they knowingly post sexual abuse material. Passed the Senate!
- ❖ DEFIANCE Act (Disrupt Explicit Forged Images and Non-Consensual Edits – [S.3696/H.R.7569](#)) Passed the Senate.
- ❖ COPPA 2.0 ([S. 1418](#)) (Children’s Online Privacy and Protection Act) bans online companies from collecting personal information from users under 17 years old without their consent. It bans targeted advertising to children and teens and creates an eraser button for parents and kids to eliminate personal information online. Passed the Senate on July 20 also!

- ❖ **KOSA**, The Kids Online Safety Act (S. 1409). **Passed the Senate** July 20, 2024! If passed, it will be a comprehensive solution to address the dangerous algorithms, lack of content moderation, and weak (or nonexistent) safety policies leave children vulnerable to predators and dangerous practices online. Click [here](https://advocacy.charityengine.net/Default.aspx?isid=2041) (<https://advocacy.charityengine.net/Default.aspx?isid=2041>) to **easily sign onto a letter** urging your representative to support this bill.
- ❖ COPPA 2.0 ([S. 1418](#)) (Children’s Online Privacy and Protection Act) bans online companies from collecting personal information from users under 17 years old without their consent. It bans targeted advertising to children and teens and creates an eraser button for parents and kids to eliminate personal information online. Passed the Senate on July 20 also!
- ❖ **EARN IT Act** ([S. 1207](#) / [H.R. 2732](#)), (Eliminating Abusive and Rampant Neglect of Interactive Technologies). Would require tech companies to search for CSAM (child sexual abuse material) on their platforms and report to NCMEC (Natl Center for Missing & Exploited Children) the info needed to find the child and conduct an investigation
- ❖ SHIELD Act (Stopping Harmful Image Exploitation and Limiting Distribution – [S. 412/H.R. 3686](#)). Passed the Senate! Would criminalize IBSA (Image-based sexual abuse that is distributed without the victim’s consent or images of nude minors intended to abuse, humiliate, or harass). It has been worked on for 8 years.
- ❖ REPORT Act of 2023 (Revising Existing Procedures On Reporting via Technology – [S. 474/H.R.5082](#)), **Became law!** It will modernize NCMEC Cyber Tipline reporting and
  1. Require platforms to report child sex trafficking and enticement, two underreported crimes
  2. Increase penalties for failure to report exploitive content
  3. Extend the retention period required of platforms to hold CSAM (child sexual abuse material = child porn) from 90 days to 1 year to facilitate law enforcement investigations
- ❖ The TAKE IT DOWN Act – [S.4569/H.R. 8989](#) – Tools to Address Known Exploitation by Immobilizing Technological Deepfakes on Websites and Network. Would criminalize publication or threat to publish IBSA, requires websites to take down IBSA (image-based sexual abuse) within 48 hours of notice by the victim.
- ❖ Sunset section 230 of the CDA (Communications Decency Act) [draft legislation](#) to remove an outdated section of a 1996 law that Big Tech companies exploit to shield themselves from any responsibility or accountability as their platforms harm Americans, especially children. Click [here](#) to **sign onto a letter** urging support of this measure: <https://advocacy.charityengine.net/Default.aspx?isid=1956>  
 Ask your Representative’s support! The November election will be changing some of those people. See who represents you at <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative> and contact them!

***DON’T FORGET TO VOTE!***

School board races are taking place this election cycle. Refer to the [Voters Guide](#) that MCAP compiled earlier this year for help casting your ballot. Consider these candidates, who did respond favorably to our questions sexually explicit materials in public school libraries: in Frederick County, Jaime Bren; in Howard County, Trent Kittleman; in PG County, Robin Brown; in Montgomery County, Brenda Diaz.

## PROGRESS with Instagram!

Soon strangers will no longer be able to find and message teens on Instagram! In September, Instagram [announced](#) multiple radical safety changes, most of which were directly requested through the [Dirty Dozen List campaign](#). The platform will be rolling out new “**teen accounts**,” which will automatically be set to **higher safety settings**, including:

- **Private Accounts:** Teen accounts will automatically be set to private so that the teen must approve new followers and people who don't follow them can't see their content or interact with them.
- **Restricted Messaging & Interactions:** Teens can only be messaged, tagged, or mentioned by people they follow or are already connected to.
- **Sensitive Content Restrictions:** Teen accounts will automatically be set to the highest content restrictions, to limit their exposure to inappropriate content.

The changes also include prompts for teens to spend less time on the app and automatically turning off notifications at night. **Even better:** Teens who try to change their account age to bypass these restrictions will need to go through an **age verification process**. And teens who are under 16 will need a **parent's permission** to change the settings. See the following article for graphics and more detail: <https://endsexualexploitation.org/articles/major-victory-instagram-makes-teen-accounts-private-and-more>

### *THE CHILDREN'S DEVICE PROTECTION ACT (“[Filters On](#)” by Default!)*

MCAP will continue to pursue a bill being introduced in several states, the [Children's Device Protection Act](#). It passed in Utah and pioneers child protection in the digital age by simplifying digital safeguards for parents on cell phones and tablets, place reasonable responsibility on manufacturers that are easily implemented, and respects the First Amendment, regarding free speech. For an excellent [explanation](#) of why this is needed, see <https://tinyurl.com/4kcxd627>. To see details of how the bill works and how it would be enforced, see <https://tinyurl.com/4kcxd627>

MCAP needs help urging our state of Maryland to enact this! Please be in touch with us at [mcapinc@mcap1.com](mailto:mcapinc@mcap1.com) or call Peggy Cairns, 301-910-1534, to volunteer! Know a friendly state delegate or senator who could co-sponsor it? Ask them or let us know, and we will reach out.

## EMERGING DANGERS

*The [Protect Young Eyes](#) organization is warning about these online development:*

- **Hackers are trying to steal Apple IDs** - beware of a wave of "smishing" (phishing attacks through SMS text) with fake iCloud links asking you to click. For long-time iPhone users, Apple IDs control *tons* of information. Inform your kids, too!
- **All Virginia (USA) public schools are going "phone-free!"** Executive Order 33 requires the Dept. of Ed. to work with stakeholders in the fall to implement policies by Jan. 1, 2025. Wouldn't it be great if Maryland would follow suit? See this web page: <https://protectyoungeyes.com/phonefreeschools-how-to-talk-to-your-school-district-about-removing-smartphones/>
- **Apple's parental controls are still broken.** Screen Time is turning off without reason. *It's not your kid - it's the software* (Our [FB](#) and [IG](#) posts show the depth of the issue).



- **Supreme Court (USA) to decide the fate of age verification** - In a possible landmark case, the Court will hear the Texas Age Verification case this fall and determine the fate of >20 state-level laws.
- **Google has a non-consensual porn problem** - Years later, victims of the Girls Do Porn traffickers are finding their videos in Google search results, which won't remove them fast enough. It's a valuable lesson about **internet permanence** for our kids.
- **No smartphones for future British royalty** - [Eton](#), an elite, private boarding school attended by Princes Harry and Edward, George Orwell, and other British leaders, will require kids to swap smartphones for a Nokia talk/text-only device upon arrival.
- **Teachers brutally victimized by students on TikTok** - In a truly terrifying [case](#), middle schoolers impersonated teachers in lewd, homophobic, and racist TikTok videos. It may be time to require parents to consent to all social media app downloads and hold them criminally liable for these situations.
- **Do you have a family code word?** Can your family identify fake content? AI can do almost anything. What if your son calls, claiming he has been kidnapped? Every family needs a code word (see these [FB](#) and [IG](#) posts that summarize helpful tips from a *Wall Street Journal* article).

MCAP highly recommends [Chris McKenna](#), founder of Protect Young Eyes and father of four, as a speaker. He does both in-person and virtual presentations. If you are part of a school or group that would consider hosting him, please be in touch with us at [mcapinc@mcapl.com](mailto:mcapinc@mcapl.com). Banding together, we can defray the cost.

## No Porn November

The [NoPornNovember](#) campaign, spearheaded by the Fight the New Drug org, is all about inspiring our world to be porn-free. Those who struggle are urged to take the challenge to give up porn for 30 days, as they say: “not for your partner, but really try it for yourself and see what happens.” Look into apps designed to help – from Fight the New Drug, see [Relay](#) (networking help) and [Fortify](#). Also, the [Covenant Eyes](#) group, which has been helping people online for 24 years, also has the [Victory](#) app.

### MCAP in Action

MCAP had exhibit tables at two National Night Out events. We partnered with local police departments in Prince George’s Bowie location, at Allen Pond, and Montgomery County’s Gaithersburg locale, at the



Casey Community Center, to provide free resources and current information on protecting families from the harms of porn, with a special focus on the online dangers to youth. Thank you to our supporters, as your donations make these efforts possible.

## ACTION BOX

- ❖ MCAP is in great need of board members and administrative help, e.g. newsletter editing, legislative, graphic design, fundraising and social media outreach! **Please** email [mcapinc@mcap1.com](mailto:mcapinc@mcap1.com) if you wish to serve. Monthly Zoom meetings are easy to attend, usually on a Wed. evening. If we do not soon see more volunteers, we may need to significantly curtail our activities.
- ❖ Could your child's school use a speaker to talk about Internet dangers? Contact Officer [Joe Dugan](mailto:joseph.dugan@maryland.gov) at [joseph.dugan@maryland.gov](mailto:joseph.dugan@maryland.gov). Another nationally renowned speaker, Chris McKenna of the Protect Young Eyes organization (see article), is someone MCAP would like to engage. Email us at [mcapinc@mcap1.com](mailto:mcapinc@mcap1.com) if interested.
- ❖ Concerned enough to protest sexualized materials that have been found in local county public school libraries and curricula? See the "Take Back the Classroom" resources from [Capitol Resource Institute](https://www.capitolresource.org/). <https://www.capitolresource.org/>
- ❖ Editor's Note: Many of you for whom we have a postal address will receive a paper newsletter soon in addition to this emailed version. If you have donated to MCAP within the last 2 years, you will find a glittery gold bookmark enclosed with the message "*All that glitters is not gold. Be careful where you cast your eyes. Choose purity.*" We are so grateful to those of you willing to subscribe and join MCAP for \$15 annually. [Paypal](https://www.paypal.com) or, with no fee, use [Zeffy at www.protect-maryland-kids.com/donate](http://www.protect-maryland-kids.com/donate) are easy ways to do this, or checks can be mailed to MCAP, P.O. Box 2868, Silver Spring, MD 20915-2868.



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Silver Spring, MD 20915-2868

P.O. Box 2868

Maryland Coalition Against Pornography