

Making a Difference

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

www.mcap1.com/ or [en español:](#) _



MCAP Hotline: 301-439-8475

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PLEASE SUPPORT US AND ATTEND ONE OF THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:

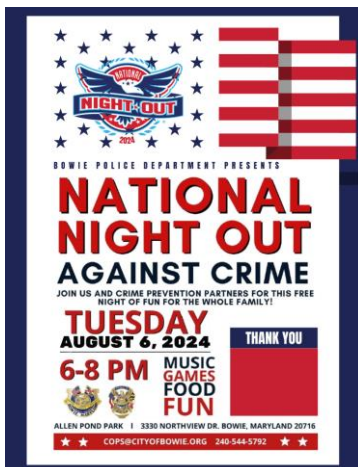


[CESE Summit coming to DC Aug. 5-8](#)

The Great Collision: Emerging Tech, Sexual Exploitation, and the Ongoing Pursuit of Dignity

Feeling overwhelmed or uninformed with the intersections between sexual exploitation and tech innovations? Equip yourself at the 2024 Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation Global Summit as we delve deep into the transformative potential and dangers of emerging technologies and their intersections with sexual exploitation. Learn from the top experts in the field, share your expertise in deliberate dialogues, and contribute to actionable strategies.

National Night Out against Crime is an annual community-based event where you can



meet and spend time with the people who serve and protect our community. This two-hour event will be packed with food, fun, and prizes. Open to the public, all are welcome!. For the second year, MCAP is participating at 2 locations: at 1) Allen Pond Park, 3330 Northview Drive, Bowie. and 2) The Casey Community Center, 810 S. Frederick Ave, Gaithersburg from **6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 6th**! Stop by our booth, check out our resources and say hi! The nationwide event “promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer.”

LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS!

- **REPORT ACT SIGNED!** On May 7, 2024, President Biden signed into law the bipartisan Revising Existing Procedures on Reporting via Technology (REPORT) Act, S. 474, authored by U.S. Senators Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) and Jon Ossof (D-GA). This legislation will require Big Tech companies such as Meta (Facebook), Snapchat or Instagram to report crimes against children involving sex trafficking, grooming, or the enticement of children for sexual acts to the CyberTipline

PROGRESS IN MOVEMENT TO PROTECT KIDS ONLINE!

- On April 30, the **Supreme Court rejected an emergency appeal** from the adult entertainment industry to suspend Texas' age-verification law. The Court is [poised to hear this case](#), *Free Speech Coalition et al v. Paxton, Attorney General of Texas*
- On May 23, the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce **voted to advance the Kids Online Safety Act (HR 7891) to the full Committee**. The Senate version has 62 co-sponsors!
- On June 17, Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) unveiled a bi-partisan **bill to protect victims of non-consensual intimate imagery (NCII), also known as "revenge pornography."** The bill would criminalize the publication of NCII, including AI-generated NCII (or "deepfake pornography"), and require social media and similar websites to have in place procedures to remove such content upon notification from a victim.
- In Maryland, MCAP will continue to urge legislators in Annapolis to consider bills like the ones introduced last session, to require the filtering of electronic devices by default for youth under 18. There was also broad, bipartisan support for state legislation to regulate deep-fake and revenge porn, especially given the advancement in capabilities of AI (artificial intelligence) technology, but despite passing overwhelmingly in the House, it did not make it through the Senate. Age verification requirements for porn sites is also a tactic gaining popularity and judicial traction insofar as constitutionality

IN OTHER NEWS:

Australia is proactively protecting youth, with regulatory action coming this fall [article [here](#)]. Australia's eSafety Commissioner issued notices to key members of the online industry giving them six months to come up with enforceable codes that will protect children from graphic pornography and other high-impact content. The codes will focus on preventing young children from encountering material they are too young to understand, while also empowering Australian internet users with options to manage their exposure to certain online material.

Even when teens know the images are fake, the victims are still bullied and harassed by peers. The article linked [here](#) gives 15 prevention steps for caregivers to consider.

TO CHANGE OUR NAME OR NOT TO CHANGE, THAT IS THE QUESTION

MCAP is weighing the idea of changing our name, in part because the word “pornography” in its title seems to trigger filtering of our outgoing emails and also affects whether Internet search results screen out MCAP. An alternate name proposal is **GUARDING EYES FOR MARYLAND (GEM)**. Our board would like to hear from our members about this idea. Send us your reaction or any thoughts, pro or con! If you have another idea, share! Email us at mcapinc@mcap1.com. We appreciate all input.

CONSIDER SIGNING THE PETITION BY THE “[HEAT INITIATIVE!](#)” This petition will hold Apple accountable for doing more to protect children from abuse. Apple is being urged to: 1) Let kids report abuse: Create easily accessible reporting in iMessage for kids and parents to report inappropriate images and harmful situations. 2) Monitor the App Store to ensure exploitative and dangerous apps are unavailable to children and that only age-appropriate apps are advertised to kids. 3) Stop the storage and spread of *known* child sexual abuse images and videos in iCloud.

What’s The Best Smart Phone For Kids? Comparison Guide from Defend Young Minds

Five competitors are compared - Bark, Gabb, Pinwheel, Troomi, MMGuardian – showing what carrier each works with, comparing costs for the device, additional lines, and monthly charges, its storage, camera, and warranty.

For People Seeking Help Breaking Free From Porn/Sex Addiction:

[Relay](#) is a group-based, digital recovery program for mastering compulsive sexual behavior. It offers support you can carry with you 24/7. Built to integrate with every-day life, *Relay* is flexible to go at your own pace and accessible, e.g. on your mobile phone, whenever you might need it. For decades, joining a group meant going to a live meeting. Now with *Relay*, getting good connection and healthy accountability is more accessible and effective than ever before. Full program access: \$149 (\$12.50/month). Includes access to 90+ interactive lessons made by clinical experts, a suite of evidence-based tools, and a dedicated, private group for deeper accountability. Free trial available.

For Struggling Teens – The Trees of Hope counseling organization has put together a 12-week, faith-based healing study for teens who have a pornography addiction, entitled [HEARTEN](#). This \$5 guide offers practical advice and encouragement that they are not alone and that there is hope for healing addiction and learning God’s view of intimacy. Trees of Hope also offers online prevention and healing modules by which people can protect children from sexual abuse, heal from their own experiences, and even become a facilitator to help others in their healing journey. See <https://www.treesofhope.org/online-learning-portal>.

Problematic Burner Phone Use by Minors – Here is a good article about how and why teens utilize these and how parents/guardians can address the dangers : <https://helpyourteens.com/teens-use-burner-phones-to-hide-online-behavior-from-parents/>

ACTION BOX

- ❖ MCAP is in great need of board members and administrative help, such as newsletter editing, legislative outreach, graphic design, fundraising and social media outreach! Call Peggy Cairns, 301-439-8475, or email if you wish to serve. Our monthly meetings are easy to attend as they are virtual, on Zoom.
- ❖ Please join in one of the activities or sign "[HEAT INITIATIVE!](#)"



If you are on Facebook, like [MCAP's page](#) , keep current on developments with issues we are following, and share.

Making a Difference is published quarterly online and printed annually. Editor: Peggy Cairns. Membership in MCAP is \$15 per year. This entitles you to receive the annual printed newsletter. All contributions to MCAP are tax deductible. 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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