Making a Difference

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

<u>www.mcap1.com</u> or <u>en español</u>

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Montgomery and Prince George's Counties

Hotline: 301-439-8475

Maryland General Assembly update

Time is growing short for key legislation to be passed, but there are three bills MCAP is supporting that havepassed without a single negative vote in the first chamber where introduced. Having now progressed to the opposite chamber, they now are being heard in the corresponding committee. Let's encourage legislators to get the job done! MCAP already has testified and provided comments, on these bills: Click on the blue bill numbers to see fuller descriptions of the bills and links to the full texts:

SB 360 (sponsor: Sen. Hester) – deals with deep-fake revenge porn. It authorizes a person to bring and maintain a civil action for defamation against another who distributes a computer-generated visual representation that is indistinguishable from an actual visual representation of the person and is of a sexual or intimate nature; and prohibiting a person from knowingly distributing a certain computer-generated visual representation of another

and

SB 545, sponsor: James (cross-filed with HB 364) Provides for stiffer penalties on criminals with large amounts of CSAM and on those depicting children under the age of 13.

Both passed unanimously in the Senate, and now will be heard March 26 in the House Judiciary Committee –

Consider emailing these members of that committee. You could copy and paste this list into the "To: " field of an email asking them to vote in favor.

Delegate Lauren Arikan state.md.us, Delegate Sandy Bartlett

<sandy.bartlett@house.state.md.us>, Delegate Christopher Bouchat <christopher.bouchat@house.state.md.us>, Delegate Jon Cardin <jon.cardin@house.state.md.us>, Delegate Lucas Clippinger

<a href="mailto: <a href="mailto: / Delegate Frank Conaway <a href="mailto: / Delegate Blizabeth Embry <a href="mailto: / Delegate Robin Grammer

<Robin.Grammer@house.state.md.us>, Delegate Aaron Kaufman <aaron.kaufman@house.state.md.us>,

Delegate David Moon < David. Moon@house.state.md.us>, Delegate Rachel Munoz

N.Scott Phillips" <n.scott.phillips@house.state.md.us>, Delegate Sheree Sample-Hughes

<Sheree.Sample.Hughes@house.state.md.us>, Delegate Stuart Schmidt <stuart.schmidt@house.state.md.us>,

Delegate Gary Simmons <gary.simmons@house.state.md.us>, Delegate Karen Simpson

Toles < karen. toles @house. state.md. us>, Delegate Chris Tomlinson < chris. tomlinson @house. state.md. us>, Delegate Chris. tomlinson & chris

Delegate William Valentine <william.valentine@house.state.md.us>, Delegate Nicole Williams <nicole.williams@house.state.md.us>

<u>HB 5</u>, sponsor: Wilson. This bill would clarify that Maryland's child pornography law applies to representations of identifiable children produced by artificial intelligence programs. It has been amended, however, to replace the term "child pornography" in Maryland law with the term "child sexual abuse material (CSAM)."

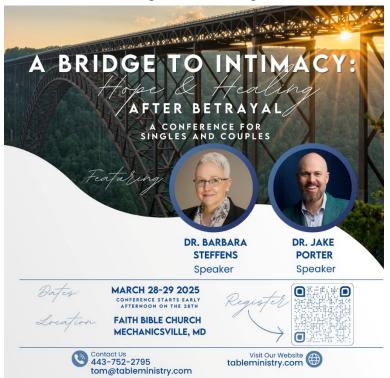
This bill was heard March 25 in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, members:

Nick Charles <nick.charles@senate.state.md.us>, Senator William Folden <william.folden@senate.state.md.us>, Shaneka Henson <shaneka.henson@senate.state.md.us>, Mary Dulaney James <marydulany.james@senate.state.md.us>, Sara Love <sara.love@senate.state.md.us>, Senator Mike McKay <mike.mckay@senate.state.md.us>. Senator Anthony Muse <anthony.muse@senate.state.md.us>. Senator Will

<mike.mckay@senate.state.md.us>, Senator Anthony Muse <anthony.muse@senate.state.md.us>, Senator Will Smith <will.smith@senate.state.md.us>, Senator Charles Sydnor <charles.sydnor@senate.state.md.us>, Senator Jeffrey Waldstreicher <jeff.waldstreicher@senate.state.md.us>, Senator Chris West <chris.west@senate.state.md.us>, Jheanelle Wilkins

For a list of all bills we are monitoring and actions to take, see https://www.protect-maryland-kids.com/legislation.

You may want to consider, or know someone who could benefit from the Maryland-based "COME TO THE TABLE MINISTRY conferences in 2025, particularly this one coming next weekend, March 28-29. There is still time to register! Tom and Michele Weaver, in Mechanicsville, MD, are both certified in Sex Addiction Recovery, Partners Recovery, Partner Betrayal Trauma, and Intimacy Anorexia through the American Association of Sex Addiction Therapy (AASAT). They work with groups, individual life coaching, and consulting. Much more info is available on their website:



https://www.tableministry.com/

Featured presenters are leaders in the field, Dr.Barbara Steffens and Dr. Jake Porter.

See https://www.drbarbarasteffens.com/

and https://go.drjakeporter.com

Attendees will hear great speakers and experience practical advice on living the Christian life - everything needed for spiritual growth in this subject area. Attendees have the opportunity to connect with others from across the country who are grappling with addiction and sexual brokenness, coming together to seek help and healing.

Two more 2025 conferences are also coming.

We commend another powerful article from Chris McKenna, via the PYE (Protect Young Eyes) blog:

How to Block Porn on Any Device. For Free. Mr. McKenna is an undisputed top authority in this field and a dynamic speaker who offers both in-person and webinar presentations to a variety of groups such as schoolsand homeschoolers, teachers, churches and organizations. MCAP invites our readers to consider booking him to speak to your group! It may be possible to arrange for a webinar that several groups could plan for and attend jointly, if not this semester, perhaps in the fall. Contact Education Chairperson Peggy Cairns at mcapinc@mcap1.com.

ACTION BOX

- Contact Md. Legislators about pending bills [see article].
- ❖ 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 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 <u>Joe Dugan</u> at <u>joseph.dugan@maryland.gov</u>. Another nationally renowned speaker, <u>Chris McKenna of the Protect Young Eyes</u> organization is someone MCAP would like to engage. Email us at <u>mcapinc@mcap1.com</u> 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/
- Consider attending or inviting others to attend the "Bridge to Intimacy" conference, March 28-29 [see article].
- We are so grateful to those of you willing to subscribe and join MCAP for \$15 annually. <u>Paypal</u> or, with no fee, use <u>Zeffy at www.protect-maryland-kids.com/donate</u> are easy ways to do this, or checks can be mailed to MCAP, P.O. Box 2868, Silver Spring, MD 20915-2868.



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Maryland Coalition Against Pornography P.O. Box 2868 Silver Spring, MD 20915-2868