

Making a Difference

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

<https://www.protect-maryland-kids.com/> or [en español](#)



301-439-8475

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GOOD NEWS AND HIGH HOPES!

LEGISLATION PASSED AND ON THE HORIZON

In Process **Locally**

Our hopes are high for this Maryland bill, [SB 221](#), to increase criminal penalties for having over 100 images of child porn or images of a minor under 13 years of age. Anyone convicted is guilty of a felony and subject to imprisonment for up to 10 years. [Note, it is better to refer to child porn as CSAM – child sexual abuse material] Senator [Mary-Dulaney James](#) introduced it last year, and it passed unanimously in the Senate, but time ran out to get it through the House of Delegates. She is trying again this session, and it is cross-filed in the House as [HB 670](#) (lead sponsor: Del. [Gabriel Moreno](#), Howard County – thank him!) MCAP testified in support.

For the upcoming bill hearings, if you've never signed up to indicate your favorable opinion, it's not very hard. Two steps are needed: creating your own [MyMGA](#) account and then finding the bill hearing. See video tutorials on how that is done [here](#). Or one can contact the individual members of the HJC to urge their support, and if you are a constituent of any of them, that is particularly valuable.

We also are hopeful for the legislative drafting to be completed on a bill to be introduced by Delegate Susan McComas, the Kids Online Protection and Anti-Grooming Act. Its bill number is yet to be assigned.

For the most up-to-date status of legislation we are tracking, and how to support bills, see our [legislative web page](#). Check it out!

👉 Find your Maryland Delegate & Senator:

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/members/district>

Enter your address to access their direct email and phone number.

One of the most important contributions that can be made is testifying to legislative committees. The legislature has provided the following resources:

[Witness Sign-up Tutorial](#)

[2026 Senate Witness Guidelines](#)

[2026 House Protocol Guidelines](#)

Other bills we are tracking:

[HB0693](#) - Civil Actions - Distribution of Obscene Material to Minors. Hearing 3/4/26 at 1 pm, [House Judiciary Committee](#). Establishing that a commercial entity that distributes obscene material to minors on the Internet

from certain websites is liable for certain damages; and prohibiting a commercial entity or third party that performs age verification of an individual from retaining any identifying information.

[HB0710](#) - Criminal Law - Display of Obscene Material to Minors, Hearing 3/4/26 at 1 pm, [House Judiciary Committee](#). Altering the definition of "item" relating to the prohibition against displaying or distributing obscene material to minors to include a drawing or illustration; and prohibiting certain public schools from displaying certain obscene material under certain circumstances.

[HB0908](#) - Civil Actions - Failure to Restrict Distribution of Sexual Material Harmful to Minors. Hearing 3/4/26 at 1 pm, [House Judiciary Committee](#). Establishing that a commercial entity that distributes certain sexual material harmful to minors on the Internet and that fails to perform certain age verification methods is liable for certain damages...and prohibiting a commercial entity or third party that performs age verification from retaining any identifying information...

[HB0924](#) - Child Exploitation Material - Civil and Criminal Actions (Safe Kids Act). Hearing 3/4/26 at 1 pm, [House Judiciary Committee](#). Prohibiting certain conduct relating to child exploitation material; establishing a civil action for a certain violation of the Act;... defining "computer-generated image" in certain provisions relating to crimes involving child pornography to include an image created through the use of artificial intelligence software; and increasing from 16 to 18 the requisite age of a child considered to be a victim of certain child pornography crime

[SB0736](#) - Criminal Law - Obscene Matter - Visual Representation of Child, Hearing, 3/3/26 at 1 pm, [Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee](#). Increasing the maximum age from 16 to 18 of a certain child that may not be depicted in certain visual representations; altering the penalties...; authorizing a person depicted in a certain visual representation to bring a certain civil action...

[HB 1294](#) - Hearing 3/5 at 1 pm, [House Judiciary Committee](#). Altering the term "child pornography" to be "child sexual abuse material" (CSAM) for purposes of certain criminal offenses; and defining "computer-generated image" to include images created through the use of artificial intelligence software...

[HB 1179](#) - Hearing 3/10 at 1 pm, [House Economic Matters Committee](#). Establishing requirements for applications (commonly called "apps") store providers and developers; creating requirements for age verification and parental consent;...

Federal laws enacted or progressing

DEFIANCE Act (H.R. 3562 or S.1837) – the Disrupt Explicit Forged Images and Non-Consensual Edits, bill passed in the U.S. Senate unanimously in January, would allow victims of nonconsensual deep-fake porn to sue individuals who produce and distribute such content. This is in response to the horrific "nudifying" apps and AI chatbots like Grok which have created millions of very realistic but forged nonconsensual images of women and children at the request of users. Urge the House of Representatives to act! We hope for swift passage so survivors can finally hold perpetrators accountable and seek the justice they deserve. Click [here](#).

This legislation complements the TAKE IT DOWN Act, which was enacted in May 2025 to compel online platforms to remove such content within 48 hours.

[H.R.4323](#) - **Trafficking Survivors Relief Act** which establishes a process to vacate convictions and expunge arrest records for certain criminal offenses committed by victims of human trafficking that directly result from or relate to having been a trafficking victim. Also allows a defendant to establish that the offenses were committed under duress by demonstrating that he or she was a victim of human trafficking

Introduced:

[S. 3398](#) - The **Stop Sextortion Act** would target offenders who threaten to distribute CSAM to intimidate, extort, or coerce children. The bill would increase the maximum penalty for these offenses from 5 to 10 years.

[S. 3394](#) - The **Sentencing Accountability for Exploitation Act (SAFE)** would repeal outdated sentencing laws and require the U.S. Sentencing Commission to develop a new CSAM sentencing guideline that accounts for modern indicators of especially dangerous conduct.

[S. 3062](#) – the **Guidelines for User Age-verification and Responsible Dialogue (GUARD) Act** would force AI companies to verify user ages and fence chatbots off from minors. It was introduced following reports of AI chatbots engaging in inappropriate conversations with children. See the disturbing story of one affected family and their teenage special needs son in an extended discussion article [here](#).

Other recent AI concerns involve Elon Musk’s GROK chatbot which was found to have generated and posted 4.4 million images on X, of which at least 41% were sexualized images of women. See NY Times article [here](#).

Read more about the dangers of **AI companions** in this [article](#) from the Protect Young Eyes organization.

ENCOURAGING NEWS FROM ABROAD

The United Kingdom has become the first Western country in decades to enact a significant porn ban: the Online Safety Act, outlawing that which depicts certain violence. “Strangulation during sex is considered the second most common cause of strokes in women under 40,” Conservative MP Alicia Kearns [posted on X](#). “Violent pornography has normalized it, and that’s why I laid amendments to ban non-fatal strangulation in porn.” Article with more details [ere](#).

Australia is now removing all kids under 16 from social media, and Malaysia plans to do the same. See PBS article [here](#).

UPCOMING CONFERENCE

For those struggling due to betrayals or navigating unwanted sexual behaviors, you are invited to this live, in-person conference hosted by the Maryland-based “COME TO THE TABLE MINISTRY.”

You're invited to
THE BRIDGE TO INTIMACY CONFERENCE
Intimacy Reimagined.
BUILDING ANEW AFTER BETRAYAL

MARCH **20-21** 2026

Location FAITH BIBLE CHURCH
MECHANICSVILLE, MD

Register
Come To The TABLE MINISTRY

Featuring
DR. BARBARA STEFFENS
DR. JAKE PORTER

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Understanding Betrayal Trauma from Both Sides
- Advanced Emotional Regulation
- In-Depth Integrity-Driven Healing & Recovery
- Couple-Centered Healing Practices - Healing Together
- Meaning-Making and Transformation
- Vision Casting for Your Future
 - Who Do You/We Want to Be
- Men & Women Breakout Sessions
- Interactive Q&A Sessions
- For Anyone Navigating the Journey of Betrayal or Unwanted Sexual Behaviors
 - Couples, Singles, Divorced or Widowed

Contact Us 240-384-0814 info@tableministry.com
Visit Our Website tableministry.com

MCAP Officer Election results - we thank Mary Modderman for serving 5 years as President! Peggy Cairns is the new President. We need a V.-P., Education Chairperson, Legislative Advocate, and other vacancies filled! Please contact Peggy Cairns at mcapinc@mcap1.com if you have questions or would be willing to serve!

ACTION BOX

- ❖ MCAP is in great need of board members and administrative help. **Please** email mcapinc@mcap1.com if you can help.
- ❖ Support the pending Maryland legislation. See our [website](#).
- ❖ Could your child's school use a speaker to talk about online dangers? Contact **Officer Joe Dugan** at joseph.dugan@maryland.gov. Another nationally renowned speaker, **Chris McKenna** of the [Protect Young Eyes](#) organization is someone MCAP would like to engage. Email us at mcapinc@mcap1.com, if interested. Some homeschool groups already have expressed interest.
- ❖ 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**" event at Faith Bible Church in Southern Maryland, March 20-21 [see article].
- ❖ We are so grateful to those of you willing to **subscribe and join MCAP** for \$15 annually. [PayPal](#) or, with no fee, Zeffy at 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