

Making a Difference

Newsletter for
Maryland Coalition Against Pornography, Inc.

MCAP Hotline: 301-439-8475

www.mcap1.com



TOGETHER WE CARE

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BREAKING NEWS!!! Maryland Senate Resolution 0001 Has Now Been Filed and Scheduled for a Hearing on January 24 in the Judicial Proceedings Committee at 1 pm!!!

A copy of the resolution and the tracking of its progress is available online:

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?id=sj0001&stab=01&pid=billpage&tab=subject3&ys=2018RS>

We are pleased that there are 13 sponsors: Lead sponsor, Serafini, as well as Bates, Eckardt, Edwards, Hershey, Hough, Jennings, Ready, Reilly, Salling, Simonaire, and Waugh. If any of these are your specific senator, please thank them.

This will call for pornography to be declared a public health crisis to minors. Please call (toll-free 1-800-492-7122 ext. 3903) or write to Senator Andrew Serafini (R, Dist. 2, Washington County), or offer written testimony to that committee, or better yet, come to testify. Certainly the sponsor would appreciate hearing appreciation; he can be emailed at andrew.serafini@senate.state.md.us. Contact us at mcapinc@juno.com if you would like to learn more about testifying with us. We welcome your show of support! We can use all the help we can get.

You can also sign the online petition, if you have not already done so:

<https://www.thepetitionsite.com/437/665/759/?src=refer&campaign=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.mcap1.com%2F>

At this writing, MCAP hears that a companion House Resolution is in process, soon to be referred to the House Judiciary Committee, sponsored by Delegate Susan McComas (R, District 34B, Harford County). She can be contacted at 1-800-492-7122 ext. 3272 or SMcComas@smccomas.com.

Tackle Sex Trafficking Demand at Super Bowl 52

The conditions around large, commercial sporting events, such as the demographics of visitors, and a

celebratory atmosphere occurring within a concentrated geographic area, create an increased demand for purchasing sex. Enticed by the potential for greater profits, this leads sex traffickers to increase the supply of sexually trafficked persons in the area. Help us stop sex trafficking associated with large sporting events by tackling the demand. Join the #TACKLEDEMAND social media campaign to help raise awareness about these issues. See:

<http://endsexualexploitation.org/tackledemand/>

You can join this mission by participating in a Thunderclap social media action being promoted by the National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE). This service schedules a one-time social media message, so all posts by participants go out at the same time, to have a potentially viral effect. Be sure to select which social media platform you want to use to participate.

Filtering 101: Protect Kids from Porn on New Devices

This article, from the Protect Young Minds organization, will walk you through an internet safety plan in three easy steps. Even tech-challenged parents can do this! See

<https://protectyoungminds.org/2017/12/28/filtering-101-protect-kids-porn/>. In a nutshell, the steps involve:

- Filtering the wireless signal in your home
- Parental controls on individual devices
- Helping kids develop internal filters

The more we know about online risks, the more we realize filtering needs to begin as soon as a child has access to the internet. Today, one in ten visits to porn sites are from *children* 10-years and under! Let's do everything we can to protect kids from porn and change this trend!

Porn-Free Radio Podcast

The intent of Pornfree Radio with Matt Dobschuetz is to impart the skills to break porn addiction and live porn free. Whether someone who is struggling has

continued on next page

been at this a long time or just hit rock bottom, this podcast is a helpful audio resource. Matt shares how his journey to being porn free started with the humiliation of being caught by his wife downloading pornography in 2001. What came out of that lowest point was a new desire to get free and a passion for helping others. See

<http://feeds.feedburner.com/pornfreeradio> where there currently are 140 encouraging, practical advice episodes that can be heard or downloaded. Maybe you know someone who could benefit from these?

Sex Abuse at the Massage Envy Chain, Which Has 29 MD Sites

More than 180 women have accused massage therapists of sexual assault at a popular chain that has locations throughout Maryland, according to a report. Among the victims speaking publicly are a Washington, D.C., woman who reported that a Silver Spring massage therapist who once worked at a Bowie spa sexually assaulted her.

For more details, see:

https://patch.com/maryland/wheaton-md/s/gamgr/sex-abuse-at-massage-chain-that-has-28-md-sites-report-says?utm_source=alert-breaking-news&utm_medium=email&utm_term=weather&utm_campaign=alert

Graphic Content on Netflix



While primetime TV is often filled with graphic sex, violence and profanity, today's children could also be accessing more and more inappropriate video entertainment away from a television set. Many kids are huddling in their rooms away from their parents and using smart phones, tablets and laptop computers to stream TV shows directly from the Internet. These programs are not subject to broadcast decency laws, and curious children are at great risk

of exposure to large amounts of harmful material on streaming video. The Parents Television Council is sounding an alarm about content now appearing on Netflix, the streaming service provider with nearly 51 million subscribers nationwide, which debuted an animated series called *Big Mouth* in the fall. This show is supposedly a "humorous" take on puberty, and contains frequent usage of the F-word as well as explicit terms to describe genitalia, menstruation and nocturnal emissions.

If you wish to become educated about this content, clips from the *Big Mouth* trailers can be viewed.

To see them, click on

<https://vimeo.com/parentstv/BM1>. **But be warned, the content is very graphic. Make sure no children are present when viewing.**

Big Mouth is rated TV-MA, and no child should watch it. But even the correct content rating may not be enough to ensure children are protected from shows like *Big Mouth*. Here's why. The PTC recent special report, [Over the Top or a Race to the Bottom: A Parent's Guide to Streaming Video](#), found that Netflix frequently places child-friendly cartoons next to adult cartoons on the menu screen. So, *Finding Dory* may appear listed alongside *Family Guy*, and if you are unaware of the sexual content that has been on *Family Guy*, you may assume that it is equally suitable for your child. Netflix and other streaming services also heavily promote their original programs like *Big Mouth*, so children could see it advertised on the menu or home screen, regardless of your viewing history or preferences. Because children are instinctively attracted to cartoons, they assume that any animated show is intended for them.

PARENTAL ADVISORY - If you are among the millions of subscribers who use Netflix at home, the PTC strongly recommends that you enable the parental controls and any additional safeguards that are built-in to your streaming device to protect your children.

A Lifeline for Victims of Child Pornography

While public policy may never eradicate the trail of tragedy and shattered lives left in the wake of child porn, it can at least alleviate the suffering of its victims.

Senator Orrin Hatch is seeking to do that with a federal bill, S.2152, a groundbreaking new proposal. It is being called "The Amy, Vicky, and Andy Child Pornography Victim Assistance Act", named after the victims of some of the most widely circulated child pornography series in the world. "Amy" brought her case to the Supreme Court and "Andy," who is aided by the tireless advocates at the Utah Crime Victims Legal Clinic, is a Utah resident. Under this legislation which already has nearly two dozen bipartisan co-sponsors,

victims will be able to choose which form of assistance will help them most. For those seeking restitution from defendants, this bill revises the criteria and options for judges to calculate losses and impose restitution. Victims may, as an alternative, apply for a one-time payment from the existing Crime Victims Fund maintained by the Department of Justice.

The Supreme Court itself has acknowledged that “every viewing of child pornography is a repetition of the victim’s abuse.” One recent study found that 70 percent of adults who are victims of child pornography worry about being recognized by someone who has seen their sexual abuse images. And their worries are not unfounded: an estimated 30 percent of victims have actually reported being recognized. Victims also worry about images and videos of their abuse being used to facilitate the sexual abuse of other children in the same way such images were used by their tormentors.

Importantly, this commonsense proposal also gives victims the same access to evidence, such as images and videos, that defendants already have.

National and state organizations active in prosecuting criminals and helping victims have endorsed this innovative legislation. Such groups include the National Center for Victims of Crime, National District Attorneys Association, National Crime Victim Bar Association, National Organization for Victim Assistance, and National Crime Victims Law Institute. The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children—one of the leading organizations in the fight against child pornography—has also voiced its strong support for this bill.

The H.E.R.O. Child-Rescue Corps - In War on Child Porn, US Turns Wounded Soldiers Into Hunters



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has rather quietly been training a small team of injured, wounded or sick military veterans for a different type of deployment - supporting the agency’s lesser-known investigative arm as analysts on child exploitation cases - the ones who will be able to take photos off a hard drive in a child pornography inves-

tigation, then help identify the perpetrator and build the case for an arrest.

“It is a battle. It is a war. And it needs to be,” said Daniel Ragsdale, ICE Deputy Director.

Since 2013, more than 100 veterans have learned computer forensics through the H.E.R.O. Child-Rescue Corps, an 11-week program in the nation’s capital, followed by a nearly year-long internship in ICE field offices around the country.

Chris Wooten, a U.S. Army ranger who was injured in a helicopter crash seven years ago while serving with a special operations regiment in Afghanistan — his fifth tour in Iraq and Afghanistan — felt like the program could return that sense of purpose and pride he felt serving in the military.

“I think this opportunity, even though we’re all wounded and can’t do our military job anymore, that this program allows us to serve our country again, and not only that, but help save some kids.”

It’s unpaid work that first year, working alongside agents to find suspects and build the cases, often looking at graphic, violent content for clues about the perpetrator, the victim, or even the location. But the program regularly leads to job offers from ICE, according to an agency spokesman. The collaboration between ICE’s Homeland Security Investigations office, U.S. Special Operations Command, and the National Association to Protect Children builds the ranks of child sexual abuse investigators, as law enforcement across the United States scrambles to keep up with networks of elusive online suspects — the ones supplying the images and the ones demanding them.

“It’s daunting to see case after case after case... when you see 100-year sentences or multiple life sentences,” Ragsdale told the graduates. “Unfortunately, it’s still not enough. It’s certainly not tipping the scale to dissuade people who abuse children.”

“You are joining a fight that law enforcement is having a hard time winning,” he added.

More than the adrenaline rush of military work under high stress, Wooten says with the investigatory work “you get that sense of pride back.”

“In the military, you’re very proud to serve your country. And this, you almost get a sense of pride that ‘I’m able to handle the images,’” said Wooten, who at 29, is the father of five children. “I knew the struggle was going to be looking at horrible photos and videos that everyday people don’t even know goes on.

“This job, I’m actually going out and saving kids and stopping bad guys, and help putting bad guys behind bars by analyzing evidence and different things that help them get a prison sentence,” said Wooten. “Before, I was just sitting at a desk basically doing paperwork.”

For more details, see:

<https://www.voanews.com/a/military-veterans-step-up-to-help-fight-child-abuse/3792301.html>

ACTION BOX

- [] Urge the members of the Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to pass SJ 1, the resolution declaring pornography's harms to minors to be a public health hazard. They are listed on this web site: <http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/05sen/html/com/05judp.html> which also links to contact info.

If you have not already done so, please sign our online petition at <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/437/665/759/> and let others know about it.

- [] Please consider joining our MCAP board of officers and help with important decisions on where and how to best direct our efforts! Contact Bob Kammer at 301-847-9820 or email us at mcapinc@juno.com

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