

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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No Porn November



Decades of studies from respected institutions have demonstrated significant impacts of porn consumption on individuals, relationships, and society. The [NoPornNovember](#) campaign, spearheaded by the Fight the New Drug group, is all about giving visibility to these facts and inspiring our world to be porn-free. They urge everyone 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.”

Hope on the Hill

MCAP was represented on Oct. 26-27 as over 200 advocates organized into teams visited the U.S. Congressional offices in person. The goal: asking for votes in favor of bills that NCOSE (the National Center on Sexual Exploitation) supports:

- Ensuring that Big Tech firms prioritize and uphold the safety of our children,
- Preventing the widespread proliferation of image-based sexual abuse,
- Holding accountable those who attempt to buy sexual access to vulnerable individuals



The Advocates Assembled



Team 18 meeting with Idaho Senator Risch

The good news is that the following *bipartisan* bills have been passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee few months ago, a major hurdle! See below for information and links to some of the actions being taken in Congress:

- ❖ [KOSA](#), The Kids Online Safety Act (S. 1409),
- ❖ [EARN IT Act](#) (S. 1207 / H.R. 2732), (Eliminating Abusive and Rampant Neglect of Interactive Technologies),

- ❖ Project Safe Childhood Act, ([S. 1170/H.R. 2661](#)),
- ❖ SHIELD Act (Stopping Harmful Image Exploitation and Limiting Distribution – [S. 412/H.R. 3686](#)).
- ❖ REPORT Act (Revising Existing Procedures On Reporting via Technology – [S. 474/H.R.5082](#)),
- ❖ STOP CSAM Act (Strengthening Transparency and Obligations to Protect Children Suffering from Abuse and Mistreatment – [S. 1199](#)).
- ❖ Preventing Child Sex Abuse Act ([S. 724/H.R. 454](#)) passed the entire Senate in March, and was approved as part of the Senate NDAA (National Defense Appropriations Act) in July.
- ❖ The House also has 2 promising bills awaiting committee action, COSMA (Child Online Safety Modernization Act – [H.R. 5182](#)), and the Stop Human Trafficking in School Zones ([H.R. 30](#)) pending in Congress and other needs for legislation yet to be drafted

For more details, see this extended [article](#) explaining much more about the 9 bills currently pending in Congress and other needs for legislation yet to be drafted. <https://tinyurl.com/ycanppzw>

Letter to the Montgomery County Board of Education

On Oct. 9, MCAP mailed a 3-page [letter](#) to Karen Silvestre, President of the Montgomery County Board of Education and Monifa McKnight, Superintendent of Schools on the subject of why sexually explicit material should be removed from the schools. You can read it using this [link](#) to MCAP's web page, but be aware that explicit language from one particular (illustrated, graphic novel style) book is quoted and is not pleasant reading, nor is the image that accompanies it.

Sadly, it is not the only sexually explicit part of that book, or a number of others now found in Montgomery County school libraries. MCAP has determined to take a position to voice our strong concerns and let them be known. Since other Maryland counties have similarly added these kinds of books to their school libraries, it will not be the last such letter.

Do you know of similar situations and want to get involved in a survey being conducted nation-wide? See this [Capitol Resource Institute](#) website: [Take Back the Classroom - https://www.takebacktheclassroom.com/](#)

Numerous specific books are cited with pdf images of the text being highlighted as objectionable. Online training is offered to assist volunteers. Contact Karen England, kengland@capitolresource.org.

THE CHILDREN'S DEVICE PROTECTION ACT – Coming to Maryland?

MCAP wants to pursue a bill that is being introduced in several states, the [Children's Device Protection Act](#). It will pioneer 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/4kcx627>. To see details of how the bill works and how it would be enforced, see <https://tinyurl.com/4kcx627>

MCAP needs help urging our state of Maryland to enact this! Please be in touch with us at 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 developments:

Artificial intelligence (AI)-generated child sexual abuse images could flood the internet via unchecked deepfake technology. Such proliferation could bog down and overwhelm law enforcement with fake leads, and abusers could use them to groom victims (ABC News [article](#) = <https://tinyurl.com/365n3jb6>).

Sextortion schemes targeting teen boys are rampant. (Washington Post [article](#)). NCMEC (National Center for Missing and Exploited Children), the clearinghouse for records of abuse, received more than 10,000 tips of financial sextortion of minors, primarily boys, in 2022. By the end of July 2023, NCMEC had already



received more than 12,500 reports. What can parents do? See an extended article from PYE with these prevention [recommendations](#).: 1) Practice, practice, practice different sextortion scenarios. 2) Control nighttime internet use. 3) Control app downloads and be aware of the apps your children ARE using. <https://tinyurl.com/5zduwxp7>

TRAININGS

The Maryland organization “Change the Conversation,” offers webinars on protecting children online and understanding the effects of abuse. See other online Fall offerings: <https://convdpc.wpengine.com/fall-trainings/>. Registration required (fee-based). <https://tinyurl.com/mt9djp9>

From the “Culture Reframed” organization, this virtual [seminar](#): The Impact of Pornography On Young People: Research, Practice, and Solutions, Thurs., Nov. 16, 2023, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. <https://culturereframed.org/events/>

Men’s Talk- “Fighting for the Light of Christ in a dark and distracting world.” St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 9000 Warfield Rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20882, Monday, Nov. 13, 2023, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. Topics discussed: How can we FIGHT the spread of the pornography epidemic that is ruining one out of every four marriages? How can we protect our families from excessive screen time that is separating us from a deeper relationship with Christ? Event is free. All attendees will receive Matt Aujero’s book Fight Club: Field Manual. [Registration](#) (optional) at <https://tinyurl.com/yjd3c5rv>

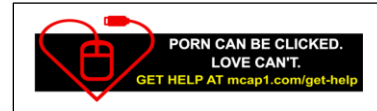
NOTES- Why was Microsoft’s “Github” placed on NCOSE’s [Dirty Dozen](#) list in 2023? See this [website](https://endsexualexploitation.org/github/). <https://endsexualexploitation.org/github/> GitHub is the go-to place to create sexually exploitative technology. Deepfakes, ‘nudify’ apps, and AI-generated pornography originate on this collaborative platform for software development. Case in point, read this BBC News [article](#): “AI-generated naked child images shock Spanish town of Almendralejo” - Naked images of young local girls were circulating on social media without their knowledge. The pictures were created using photos of the targeted girls *fully clothed*, many taken from their own social media accounts. These were then processed by an application that use artificial intelligence to generate an imagined image of the person *without* clothes on...more than 20 girls, aged between 11 and 17, have come forward as victims... at least 11 local boys were identified as involved in either creating the images or circulating them via the WhatsApp and Telegram apps. Sextortion allegations also arose. The suspects are aged between 12 and 14.

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 if you wish to serve. Monthly Zoom meetings are easy to attend, usually on a Wed. evening.
- ❖ 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. He has been a member of the state Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, and is well-experienced in doing this, with rave reviews.
- ❖ 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](#).
- ❖ Can you translate English into Spanish? We need help with that, to offer educational handouts en Español. Please email us!



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



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 decal enclosed. We are so grateful to those of you willing to subscribe and join MCAP for \$15 annually. [Paypal](#) is an easy way 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

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