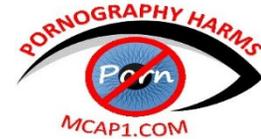


Making a Difference

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

www.mcap1.com/ or en español: www.mcap1.com/español



MCAP Hotline: 301-439-8475

Vol. 37, No. 3 Montgomery and Prince George's Counties Winter, 2023

It's legislative season in Annapolis and MCAP is on the move! Here is a summary of what is new.

Firstly, we admired and are emulating the law the state of Utah passed - the Device Filter Amendment (HB72) - which requires manufacturers of smartphones and tablets activated in their state to enable existing filters to block out sexually explicit material that is "harmful to minors." Families nationwide are rising up in a gathering movement and calling on big tech to **#DefaulttoSafety!** For more background, see this [NCOSE article](#).

MCAP is pleased to report that this banner has been taken up in Maryland in the form of [HB 1082](#) – **Protection of Minors From Unfiltered Tablets or Smart Phones**. It will have its hearing on March 1, before the House Economic Matters Committee. Stay tuned for future developments.

PLEASE THANK: particularly lead sponsor Delegate [McComas](#), susan.mccomas@house.state.md.us, and co-sponsors [Schmidt](#), stuart.schmidt@house.state.md.us and [Wivell](#), william.wivell@house.state.md.us.

On another track, in the House Judiciary Committee and the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, MCAPers Peggy Cairns, Rachel Delap and Brikena Kay all recently testified in support of [HB 233](#) and [SB 226](#) (cross-filed bills) which would add language to the MD criminal code dealing with behavior that may be prosecuted for child porn consumption. The issue is livestreaming of videos. [See article "[1 in 20 Kids Are Being Asked to Undress During Livestreams](#)"] ...

The intent of our existing MD. law is to penalize those found guilty of possessing or distributing child sexual abuse material. But as the laws were originally drafted, the evolution of today's digital realm could not have been anticipated. Here is the new language needed, to enable prosecution of those who: ...KNOWINGLY OR INTENTIONALLY ACCESS WITH INTENT TO VIEW... child sexual abuse material.

The problem is that, currently, our code language specifies that the child porn consumer can only be charged if they retain/possess the media/visual representations. However, technology today has enabled livestreaming. Compare it to Netflix or webcam-enabled (e.g. Zoom) meetings. However, these horrors involve live sexual abuse of children, which viewers are actively watching in real time.

Sometimes the abuse is being tailor-made via audio instructions to a trafficker (who may be anywhere in the world) from the viewer. However, because the images are not downloaded or retained onto the viewer's device, there is no lasting possession of the images on the viewer's device that prosecutors can bring charges on. Yet, the abuse is occurring, in ways more horrific than ever, and we need to provide a legal avenue to bring charges and curb the demand.

A videorecording of the pertinent [segment of the House hearing](#) on this bill can be watched. Be forewarned, among the oral testimony is that of the Maryland mother of a 6-year-old who was abused, but when the abuse came to light, imagine the incredulous dismay over the inability for the perpetrator to be prosecuted! Such a brave woman to come forward to tell her family's horror story in public, in order to try to rectify this sad state of affairs!

Sponsors to thank: Delegate [Robin Grammer](#) and Senator [Johnny Ray Salling](#). They are asking our support to email or call the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of those committees to please bring the bills up for a vote.

Please consider reaching out to relevant lawmakers. Sample language to use:

For HB 233 - Dear Chairman Clippinger [luke.clippinger@house.state.md.us]/Vice-Chairman Moon [David.Moon@house.state.md.us], Thank you for your Judiciary Committee's hearing on HB 233 on Tuesday, Feb.7. I write to urge a prompt **favorable** vote on this important bill and issue surrounding the livestreaming of child sexual abuse material. Your work is appreciated.

For SB 226 – Dear Chairman Smith [will.smith@senate.state.md.us]/Vice-Chairman Waldstreicher [jeff.waldstreicher@senate.state.md.us], Thank you for your Judicial Proceedings Committee's hearing on SB 226 on Tuesday, Feb.14. I write to urge a prompt **favorable** vote on this important bill and issue surrounding the livestreaming of child sexual abuse material. Your work is appreciated.

Any pending legislation that MCAP is following appears on the www.mcap1.com website with hot links to the Maryland General Assembly web pages and full text of those bills, where their progress can be tracked.

See the latest on <http://mcap1.com/mcap/legislation>

MCAP Speaker Matt Aujero offered an in-person class, "Protecting the Family from Internet Pornography" at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, College Park, Feb. 16. If you are interested in a similar presentation for a group, please contact us at mcapinc@mcap1.com.

Another seminar next week via Zoom below:

The graphic features a blue and white color scheme. On the left, a white arrow points right, containing the logo for 'No More Stolen Childhoods' with a red and white butterfly icon. Below the arrow, a blue box contains the text 'A live, 90-minute session covering:' followed by a bulleted list of topics. To the right of the arrow, the main title 'FOUNDATIONS OF EFFECTIVE ONLINE SAFETY' is displayed in large, bold, blue letters. Below the title, the speakers are listed: 'with Amie Myrick, LCPC, and Nitai Joseph, MSc.' Further down, the date and time are given as 'Feb. 22nd, 2023 10:00-11:30am', and the format is 'Virtual Via Zoom CEUs Available'.

No More Stolen Childhoods

FOUNDATIONS OF EFFECTIVE ONLINE SAFETY

with Amie Myrick, LCPC, and Nitai Joseph, MSc.

Feb. 22nd, 2023
10:00-11:30am

Virtual Via Zoom
CEUs Available

A live, 90-minute session covering:

- Main types of online risks
- Why and how messaging has been ineffective
- Forms of abuse and exploitation online
- Youth perspectives on tech and risks

Groundbreaking legislation was passed in Louisiana and became effective at midnight on January 1, 2023 (as reported by [@klla5news](#)).

Act 440, sponsored by Rep. Laurie Schlegel, requires pornography sites to verify the age of their users when a substantial amount (33%+) of their content is pornographic (the second panel shows P*rnhub's compliance - one of the first major sites to do so). Age verification can be achieved with a digital ID card or government-issued ID, or via some form of "commercially reasonable method" that uses public or private data to verify age, according to the act. Failure to comply with the act can lead to a lawsuit.

According to our friends at @endexploitation: "While U.S. law has long held that pornography must not be distributed to individuals under 18-years-old, until now, this principle has not been applied in the online world."

Similar bills are now pending in Arkansas and Utah. Shall we try to get Maryland to follow their lead? Be in touch with us, if you would like to try to make that happen! Mcapinc@mcap1.com

GOOD NEWS

Since December 2020, there's been a lot in the news about one of the world's largest porn sites, Pornhub, owned by a company that owns and controls much of the mainstream porn industry, MindGeek.

All of these events have been years in the making. Countless anti-exploitation advocates and survivors of trafficking, child abuse, and image-based abuse have worked tirelessly since long before December 2020 to expose the questionable business practices of the porn industry and the proliferation of nonconsensual content on porn sites.

Let's review why Pornhub is in trouble for reportedly hosting nonconsensual images, and what led up to MindGeek being investigated by the Canadian House of Commons Ethics Committee and MindGeek's CEO and COO resigning.... [content clipped]

August 4th, 2022: In light of not being dismissed from the lawsuit against MindGeek and Visa, Visa announces they've suspended payment processing for advertising purchases on Pornhub and other sites owned by MindGeek. That same day, Mastercard follows suit. This move effectively demonetizes a large part of MindGeek's business model due to the significant percentage of revenue that comes from ads on MindGeek sites like Pornhub through TrafficJunky, MindGeek's own advertising arm. Recall that on December 10th, 2020, Visa and Mastercard suspended payment processing on Pornhub's site due to reports of abusive content on the site. August 4th's announcement goes much further than that previous decision due to significantly more revenue coming from TrafficJunky and advertising than site subscriptions.

September 3rd, 2022: Instagram removes Pornhub's account. Before it was removed, it was verified with a blue checkmark and had 13.1 million followers and more than 6,200 posts. Variety reports that reps for Meta, Instagram's parent company, did not respond to a request for comment. As of now, Pornhub still has active accounts on other social media platforms like Twitter and YouTube.

December 12th, 2022: TikTok joins Instagram in removing Pornhub's account from their platform. Before removal, Pornhub announced its new presence on TikTok via Twitter. Hours later, after receiving a notification about the account's existence, TikTok removed the account.

December 16th, 2022: YouTube removes Pornhub's account and channel, which previously had over 900,000 subscribers. Pornhub repeatedly violated YouTube's Community Guidelines, including using YouTube to drive people directly to their pornography site and was terminated from the platform. This comes eight years after Pornhub launched its account. According to YouTube, Pornhub violated the platform's policy against linking to external websites that host content that isn't allowed on YouTube itself. "Upon review, we terminated the channel Pornhub Official following multiple violations of our Community Guidelines," YouTube spokesperson Jack Malon said in a statement to Variety. "We enforce our policies equally for everyone, and channels that repeatedly violate or are dedicated to violative content are terminated."

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! **Please** call Peggy Cairns, 301-439-8475, or email mcapinc@mcap1.com if you wish to serve. Our monthly meetings are easy to attend as they are virtual, on Zoom.
- ❖ Please see suggested letters to write to Maryland legislators, as shown in the front-page article.



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

Making a Difference is published quarterly online and printed once a year. Editor: Peggy Cairns. A 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!



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Silver Spring, MD 20915-2868
P.O. Box 2868

Maryland Coalition Against Pornography

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