



Bill No: HB99
Title: Criminal Law – Sexual Solicitation of a Minor Through Child Pornography – Prohibition
Committee: Judiciary
Hearing: January 23, 2024
Position: SUPPORT

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) is a statewide coalition of women’s groups and individuals formed to provide a non-partisan, independent voice for Maryland women and families. MLAW’s purpose is to advocate for legislation affecting women and families. To accomplish this goal, MLAW creates an annual legislative agenda with issues voted on by MLAW members and endorsed by organizations and individuals from all over Maryland. **HB99 - Criminal Law – Sexual Solicitation of a Minor Through Child Pornography – Prohibition** is a priority on the **2024 MLAW Agenda** and we urge your support.

HB99 would expand expands the definition of sexual solicitation of a minor to include production of child pornography.

Online sexual exploitation of female children has increasing tremendously. The proliferation of phones and technology has moved predatory sexual offenders online. In 2022 alone, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children received 32 million CyberTipline reports of suspected online child sexual abuse – this is a nearly 8,000% increase from 2012. Predators meet children online and ask them to produce sexual images and videos of themselves. Offenders send minors pornography, explicit instructions, and in some cases, they send sex toys for the minor to utilize in the photo and videos. This conduct is currently not prohibited in the current 3-324 statute.

Adding 11-207 Production of Child Pornography to the listed prohibited offenses in 3-324 Sexual Solicitation of a Minor will enable law enforcement to hold offenders accountable and protect female children that are being victimized online.

For these reasons, MLAW strongly urges the passage of HB99.