Maryland Coalition Against Pornography, Inc.

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TOGETHER WE CARE

February 14, 2024

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Chair, Vanessa Atterbeary Ways and Means Committee, Maryland House of Delegates

In support of HB 671

The Maryland code, as it now stands, adequately defines obscenity and what is harmful to minors. This bill will be helpful in that the proposed added language would now include places that heretofore have gone unmentioned – public schools. Those are exactly the places where the minors we want to remain protected, or unharmed, are most to be found. Those who crafted the law likely never imagined that this language would be needed, but sadly, we have seen evidence that it now is.

Similar to how we want our schools to be drug-free zones, likewise we ought to want them to be obscenity-free zones. Citizens certainly would not want taxpayer dollars to be spent on providing such materials to minors.

We also commend the goal of increasing the accountability of public school principals.