



Maryland | Delaware | DC Press Association

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To: Senate Finance Committee

From: Rebecca Snyder, Executive Director, MDDC Press Association

Date: February 3, 2023

Re: **SB 844 - UNFAVORABLE**

The Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Association represents a diverse membership of newspaper publications, from large metro dailies such as the Washington Post and the Baltimore Sun, to hometown newspapers such as The Frederick News Post and Hagerstown Herald-Mail to publications such as The Daily Record, Baltimore Jewish Times, and online-only publications such as Bethesda Beat, MarylandReporter.com and Baltimore Brew.

The Press Association cannot support SB844 as written. The goals of the legislation, protecting children from undue digital influence and advertising are laudable, however, this legislation captures news media in its cross hairs. News media sites do not track the age of a reader and our members are concerned that the wide scope of this bill would mean that any article or portion of the news site that may attract the attention of anyone 18 years or younger would not be able to carry advertising. Advertising revenues are a support of quality journalism.

This is indeed a high, insurmountable bar. We ask that news media be exempted from this legislation, as news media serves to educate and inform people of all ages. If news media cannot be exempted, we ask for an unfavorable report.



**We believe a strong news media is
central to a strong and open society.**

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