

# Maryland Coalition Against Pornography, Inc.

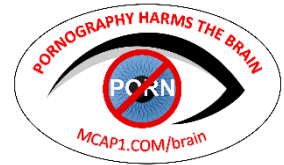
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TOGETHER WE CARE

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## **In support of SB 780**

MCAP appreciates this bill which seeks to solve a huge problem facing families today that is beyond solving by parents alone - the dangers to the safety of children presented by unfiltered internet-connected devices.

The approach taken by this bill offers a technically simple, elegant solution: turn **on** filtering by default.

To grasp the problem, I recommend that you watch a **free** 2020 documentary video entitled [CHILDHOOD 2.0](#). Here's a sample of disturbing trends and statistics:

53% of American children get a cell phone by age **11**. They spend many hours daily on these devices which are worse, addictively, than slot machines. 27% of all unfiltered Internet content is explicit or pornographic, and nearly 50% of children have been exposed to it by age **8**. In 2019, porn sites received more Internet traffic than Amazon, Twitter and Netflix combined. Social media apps are saturated with explicit material that can be shared via back door methods like chats.

In 2021 alone, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children received nearly 85 **million** images, videos, and other files related to child sexual abuse and exploitation – and those are only what were **reported**. Much of today's porn contains physical and verbal aggression and violence.

Opponents of age verification requirements claim such laws are unconstitutional, but court decisions are not trending that way. See:

**Judge tosses challenge to Louisiana's age verification law.** [Federal District judge]  
<https://apnews.com/article/porn-lawsuit-age-verification-louisiana-bbdf1afdc5c09feb104fe4199e20c22d>

and

**Judge dismisses lawsuit against Utah's new age-verification porn law** [Federal District Judge]

<https://www.ksl.com/article/50699897/judge-dismisses-lawsuit-against-utahs-new-age-verification-porn-law>

Regarding smart phones and tablets - technology is best when it's easy and intuitive to use. This is NOT the case with filtering technology today. Families need help.

We parents know that manufacturers **can** turn on the filtering. Government regulates safety for other materials harmful to minors, like tobacco and alcohol. We don't put those potentially dangerous products freely in the hands of minors? No. Why should internet connectivity for minors be so **unregulated**?

We urge a favorable report on SB 780.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peggy Cairns  
Education Chairperson  
Maryland Coalition Against Pornography