

Written Testimony for **SB 545: Criminal Law - Child Pornography - Prohibitions and Penalties** - Please **VOTE NO** on this bill **AS IT IS WRITTEN, OR VOTE YES WITH AMENDMENTS**

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

This bill reads: "...**Prohibiting** a person from possessing **more than 100 images** of certain child pornography or possessing or viewing images of certain child pornography **depicting a minor** or an individual indistinguishable from an actual and identifiable child **under the age of 13 years**; providing that a violation of the Act is a felony and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 10 years..."

Why would we let any person possess up to **100 images of child pornography**? Isn't possessing any number of images of child pornography a crime in this state? Also, why would we let any person possess or view images of child pornography depicting a minor **13 years of age or older** up to the age of majority at 18? Isn't possessing images of child pornography depicting a minor under the age of 18 a crime? If it isn't, it certainly should be!!

Are we now trying to change child pornography laws to make it perfectly acceptable for any person to possess up to 100 images of child pornography? Are we now trying to change pornography laws to make it perfectly acceptable for any person to possess or view images of child pornography depicting a minor between the ages of 13 and 17? It certainly seems that this is what this law is designed to do. **This is not acceptable!!**

**The law should state "...Prohibiting a person from possessing any images of child pornography...". The law should also state "... Prohibiting a person from possessing or viewing any images of child pornography depicting a minor or an individual indistinguishable from an actual and identifiable child under the age of 18 years..."**

It would be acceptable to have the language changed in this bill to reflect the language quoted above. **If this language will be changed, then please VOTE YES, WITH AMENDMENTS** on this bill. **If this law cannot be rewritten** to reflect the language quoted above, then please **VOTE NO** on this legislation!!

There is no reason that any person in the state of Maryland should be possessing or viewing child pornography depicting any minor under the age of 18 years for any reason!! These are children!! We need to protect children from being exploited!!

Thank you for your time and attention.

Trudy Tibbals

A Very Concerned Mother of 3 and Maryland resident