

Witness Testimony for HOUSE BILL 0005
Criminal Law - Child Pornography - Artificial Intelligence Software

Submitted by:
Zen Corp Federation Inc.
Email: zencorconsulting@yahoo.com
410-929-1086

ATTENTION: Delegate C.T. Wilson and Members of the Maryland House of Delegates

RE: Testimony Submission for HB 0005

1

Greetings to Governor Wes Moore, Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller, Delegate C.T. Wilson, Members of the Maryland House of Delegates, and Maryland Judiciary Committee. We submit this written testimony as a favorable gesture in full support of House Bill 0005.

We are Zen Corp Federation Inc. which is a Maryland-based expert consulting firm specializing in policy administration, project management, strategic planning/procurement, contract administration and crisis management. We support a variety of community outreach initiatives and organizational missions throughout Maryland. This level of advocacy ignites our sincere interest in social issues/causes that impact men, women, and youth. We encourage the creation of inflexible laws/policies for Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology and engineering particularly related to child pornography. We believe it is our civic and social responsibility to support the conception of laws that can increase the State's regulatory enforcement efforts especially if a concrete legal framework is limited or absent within higher branches of government. AI engineering, particularly in relation to child pornography and illicit misappropriate computer imagery of children, is a timely pressing concern. While we aim to promote awareness and the positive change that encompasses technology advancement, we also recognize that more emphasis on ethical standards is necessary in order to properly regulate the AI platforms. With respect to the expeditious rise of AI and the scarcity of regulations associated with it, we applaud Maryland's Senate and House Delegation for its initiative to ensure our state government exercises its capacity to create laws such as HB 0005 (§11–208) which will enhance the State's regulatory enforcement efforts.

On May 16, 2023, Sam Altman (CEO of OpenAI) rendered a compelling presentation at the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee on May 16, 2023 sharing his views and expertise about the AI advances. However, a startling caveat about this committee discussion were his sentiments about the need for more laws and regulatory enforcement for AI technology given the myriad of privacy/ethical concerns and security/biometric risks that unveil the more AI platforms continue to develop. Despite the wide range of discussions about AI at the Federal level, it is becoming increasingly urgent for State lawmakers and State elected officials to define the equitable balance between AI innovation and protection of individual rights. This also means prioritizing transparency and accountability as best practices when identifying a feasible legal framework for technology advances. Lastly, states such as Maryland are exploring policy reform options that will protect the fundamental rights of everyone especially children who (we feel) may be a vulnerable demographic when it pertains to the unexpected and inevitable exposures of AI technology.

(Sources: US Senate Judiciary Committee Artificial Intelligence Hearing - <https://www.youtube.com/live/TO0J2Yw7usM?si=oLoXsiJtc41Gxkyz>)

The addition of "computer-generated image" including those created using AI software is significant and renders more context to the current law (Section 11-208). In addition, it demonstrates the responsiveness of elected officials to ensure quality control measures and justifiable penalties will be enforced in Maryland as it relates to unbecoming use of AI platforms and the engineering of AI content, particularly with respect to potential crimes against children.

It is our hope that additional legislative interventions and governance will continue to springboard as a result of HB 0005. We look forward to supporting the Maryland elected officials' effort to establish explicit laws that strengthen the legal framework surrounding AI. Thus, Zen Corp Federation stands in favor of HB 0005 and will continue seeking ways to actively support this legislation upon and beyond its effective date.