

DONNA CULBERSON
1616 Doctor Jack Rd
Conowingo, MD 21918

Date: 02/03/2025

Subject: HB0394

As a concerned citizen, a grandparent of a Cecil County Public School student and as a County Council member for Cecil County, I am asking for a FAVORABLE position on HB394.

To me, this is a commonsense piece of legislation. Children should not be exposed to obscene material whether it is written material, pictorials, music, movies, or videos. According to NSVRC.Org, sexualizing children results in eating disorders in young girls, low self-esteem, depression, and confusion. Excessive exposure to sexual content also leads to desensitizing children and youth to inappropriate sexual activity, resulting in an unrealistic view of normal, appropriate sexual behavior. This distorted view of sexual contact has the potential of normalizing sex which will result in sexual violence, rape, abuse, and an increase in sexually transmitted diseases.

While the web is one source for children to access sexual content, many sites are inadvertently accessed while children are searching for other content. According to a study by NSVRC, 66% of those children who in the study, expressed their concern that such sites were not wanted. This brings me to my next point of age verification. The porn industry acknowledges, despite legal ramifications for exposing children to pornographic content and sexually explicit materials, only 3% of the websites require proof of age before the user is permitted access to such content. In addition, 75% of sexually explicit websites display an enticing short clip or images on their home page that results in children and youth clicking the associated links out of curiosity. These sites only require an age be reported but do NOT require verification of age.

For these reasons, I request a FAVORABLE position on HB394.