THE COALITION TO PROTECT MARYLAND'S CHILDREN
Our Mission: To combine and amplify the power of organizations and citizens working together to keep children safe from abuse and neglect. We strive to secure budgetary and public policy resources to make meaningful and measurable improvements in safety, permanence, and wellbeing.

HB0005 – Criminal Law - Child Pornography –
Artificial Intelligence Software
Judicial Committee
February 4, 2025

Position: SUPPORT

The Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children is a consortium of organizations and individuals formed in 1996 who are concerned about the care of Maryland's most vulnerable children and work together to promote meaningful child welfare reform. CPMC **urges a favorable report on HB0005** - Criminal Law - Child Pornography - Artificial Intelligence Software.

HB0005 adds the definition of "computer-generated image" to include images created through the use of artificial intelligence software as the term pertains to provisions of law related to child pornography.

There is often the misperception that AI-generated child pornography is a "victimless" alternative to photos of known children. However, when artificial intelligence is used to create the image of a child, it must pull from an existing pool of images on the internet. Therefore, although the final product may not represent any one child, many children's images may be used, and the result is certainly comprised of actual children. Therefore, creating AI-generated child pornography is most definitely *not* a victimless act.

Due to the fact that AI would necessarily pull from existing images of children, we believe this bill should be supported in order to ensure the safety and confidentiality of children/minors.

For the reasons above, the Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children **urges a favorable report** on HB0005 Criminal Law - Child Pornography - Artificial Intelligence Software.