

Maryland Coalition Against Pornography, Inc.

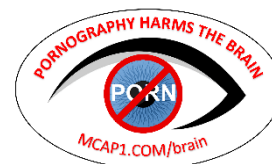
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TOGETHER WE CARE

February 5, 2025

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In support of HB 394

Chairman Luke Clippinger

Judiciary Committee, Maryland House of Delegates

MCAP wishes to thank all the sponsors of this important bill.

In this digital era of the 21st century, manifold dangers to all mankind are constantly emerging, and all the moreso for innocent, immature youth whose judgment is not yet developed and whose impressionable minds stand to be the most adversely affected.

Exposure to X-rated content is occurring at younger and younger ages. Sample statistics – see a [2023 report from the Common Sense Media](https://www.commonssensemedia.org/press-releases/new-report-reveals-truths-about-how-teens-engage-with-pornography)

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Thankfully, efficient age verification technology has also emerged and is becoming standardized, so as to provide excellent tools with so much useful potential to shield minors on the Internet.

Government regulation, in its wisdom, already utilizes age verification methods to prohibit minors from obtaining cigarettes and alcohol, in recognition of the dangers of these substances. Applying that same recognition to obscenity is crucially needed, and implementing prohibition measures is past due.

For an in-depth discussion with persuasive rationale about the pressing need, see "[The Need for Federal Legislation Requiring Age Verification for Porn Websites](https://www.dailysignal.com/2023/12/19/need-federal-legislation-requiring-age-verification-porn-websites/)" by Annie Chestnut Tutor. <https://www.dailysignal.com/2023/12/19/need-federal-legislation-requiring-age-verification-porn-websites/>

We hope further measures can be found to curb the public health crisis of pornography.

Peggy Cairns, Silver Spring

Education Chairperson

Maryland Coalition Against Pornography