

HB1294_Crossover_Bill_Richard
Kaplowitz_FAV
03/26/2026
Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703-7134

**TESTIMONY ON CROSSOVER BILL HB#1294 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Criminal Law - Child Sexual Abuse Material - Artificial Intelligence Software**

TO: Chair Smith, Jr., Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of crossover bill HB#/1294, Criminal Law - Child Sexual Abuse Material - Artificial Intelligence Software

This bill will further redefine the crime of child pornography and criminalize the use of AI technology in the creation of child pornography. As documented by the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault:

Preventionists, advocates, and service providers who work to address sexual violence must contend with new challenges presented by the rise of widely accessible artificial intelligence (AI) technology. Perpetrators of sexual abuse and exploitation have begun using AI technology to create “deepfakes.” Deepfakes are hyper-realistic synthetic images and videos created using AI software that convincingly replace the individual in the original video or image with the likeness of another person (Harris, 2015). This allows the creators of these representations to make it appear that the person whose face is portrayed in the image or video is engaging in an act that in reality they did not engage in.¹

This bill will alter the term "child pornography" to be "child sexual abuse material" for purposes of certain criminal offenses; and define "computer-generated image" to include images created using artificial intelligence software as the term pertains to provisions of law related to child sexual abuse material.

People who consider children as sexual objects for their gratification will be held accountable for using technology to enhance their predatory activities. This bill will make it more costly for the purveyors of this misuse of AI with a strong deterrent to that conduct, giving law enforcement more tools in prosecuting these crimes.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on crossover bill HB1294.

¹ <https://mcasa.org/newsletters/article/survivor-safety-deepfakes-and-negative-impacts-of-ai-technology>