

Porn - child - child sexual abuse materials - tes

Uploaded by: Lisae C Jordan

Position: FAV



Working to end sexual violence in Maryland

P.O. Box 8782
Silver Spring, MD 20907
Phone: 301-565-2277
Fax: 301-565-3619

For more information contact:
Lisae C. Jordan, Esquire
443-995-5544
www.mcasa.org

Testimony Supporting House Bill 1294
Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel
March 26, 2026

The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA) is a non-profit membership organization that includes the State's seventeen rape crisis centers, law enforcement, mental health and health care providers, attorneys, educators, survivors of sexual violence and other concerned individuals. MCASA includes the Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI), a statewide legal services provider for survivors of sexual assault. MCASA represents the unified voice and combined energy of all of its members working to eliminate sexual violence. We urge the Judicial Proceedings Committee to report favorably on House Bill 1294.

House Bill 1294 -- Child Pornography/Child Sexual Abuse Materials

This bill seeks to update Maryland's law on child pornography in two ways. First, it adds "IMAGES CREATED THROUGH THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SOFTWARE" to "computer generated image". Second, it replaces the phrase "child pornography" with "child sexual abuse materials."

House Bill 1294 changes the phrase "child pornography" to "child sexual abuse materials" throughout the code. This is an update to language and does not change the meaning of the law or have other substantive effect. It does, however, more accurately label the images and is consistent with current terminology used in the field.

Victims portrayed in child sexual abuse materials suffer long lasting and repeated harm. They are sexual abused during the creation of the images, and then these victims experience repeated harm as the pictures of their abuse are circulated. The material travels the web, around the world, and is shared by the sex offenders interested in exploiting children by viewing their sexual abuse. Our law should name this crime for what it is: child sexual abuse materials.

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the
Judicial Proceedings Committee to
report favorably on House Bill 1294**

Maryland Catholic Conference_FAVHB1294_SENATE CROS

Uploaded by: Michelle Zelaya

Position: FAV



MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

March 26th 2026

HB1294

**Criminal Law - Child Sexual Abuse Material - Artificial Intelligence Software
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Position: Favorable**

The Maryland Catholic Conference offers this testimony in support of **House Bill 1294**. The Maryland Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

House Bill 1294 updates Maryland's criminal law to address emerging threats posed by artificial intelligence. This bill modernizes statutory language by replacing the term "child pornography" with the more accurate and survivor-centered term "child sexual abuse material," and ensures that computer-generated images—including those created with artificial intelligence—are explicitly covered under the law. The intent of this bill is to close dangerous loopholes, protect vulnerable children, and ensure that technology cannot be weaponized to exploit or harm minors.

Children deserve the full protection of the law regardless of whether abusive imagery is created from real photographs or generated through sophisticated software. AI-generated images can be just as damaging—spreading rapidly online, creating lifelong trauma, and fueling markets that normalize exploitation. Communities benefit when offenders can be held accountable and when Maryland's legal framework stays ahead of technological advances that pose real dangers. Law enforcement also gains clearer tools to investigate and prosecute crimes involving digitally manipulated content, ensuring no exploitative act escapes justice simply because it was created by a machine.

Catholic social teaching compels us to protect the most vulnerable, particularly children, whose innocence and dignity must be safeguarded without compromise. Technology must always serve humanity, not undermine it. Just as the Maryland Bishops highlight in their pastoral letter on artificial intelligence, *The Face of Christ in a Digital Age*, they emphasize the critical truth that "AI must never be used to deepen digital colonialism, surveil vulnerable populations, or create weapons of oppression." Permitting AI to be used as a means of simulating abuse erodes societal values, dehumanizes children, and contributes to a culture that tolerates exploitation. Passing this legislation sends a powerful message that Maryland will not allow modern digital tools to become vehicles for moral harm.

For these reasons, the Maryland Catholic Conference urges a favorable report on **House Bill 1294**.

HB1294 - crossover bill - FAV - Child Sexual Abuse

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV

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>

HB 1294_ Criminal Law - Child Sexual Abuse Materi

Uploaded by: Trudy Tibbals

Position: UNF

HB 1294: Criminal Law - Child Sexual Abuse Material - Artificial Intelligence Software:
Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I am writing as a resident of Maryland to respectfully **oppose House Bill 1294** (Criminal Law – Child Sexual Abuse Material – Artificial Intelligence Software).

I fully support the bill’s intent: protecting children from the very real and growing threat of AI-generated child sexual abuse material. Updating Maryland law to explicitly cover computer-generated images created by artificial intelligence is a necessary and timely step in the digital age.

However, **the bill’s approach creates a serious unintended loophole.** By systematically replacing the longstanding term “child pornography” with the narrower phrase “child sexual abuse material” throughout the Criminal Law Article (and related sections in Courts & Judicial Proceedings, Criminal Procedure, and Education), the legislation **risks narrowing the scope of what is criminalized.**

“Child pornography” has historically been interpreted broadly to cover any visual depiction of minors in sexually explicit conduct. Changing it to “child sexual abuse material” and tying the prohibition more tightly to depictions that qualify as “sexual abuse” could be read by courts or prosecutors as excluding material that is sexually explicit or pornographic but does not meet a stricter “abuse” threshold. This will *potentially legalize* certain AI-generated (or real) **child pornography that is not deemed “sexual abuse material”**, undermining the very protections the bill seeks to strengthen.

Maryland should close the AI loophole without weakening existing language. A cleaner approach would be to keep the term “child pornography” where it already appears and simply add explicit language covering AI-generated and computer-generated images, or define “child pornography” to expressly include all sexually explicit depictions of minors (real or simulated) plus the new AI language.

For these reasons, I urge you to **vote NO on HB 1294** in its current form, or to amend it before passage to avoid creating any new loopholes. **Our laws must unambiguously criminalize all forms of child sexual exploitation material—especially AI-generated content—without narrowing longstanding protections.**

Thank you for your time and for carefully considering my concerns regarding this important child-protection issue.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals