

HB 710: Criminal Law - Display of Obscene Material to Minors: Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **SUPPORT HB 710**.

HB 710 would update Maryland's law prohibiting the display or distribution of obscene material to minors **by expanding the definition of "item" to explicitly include drawings or illustrations** (in addition to existing categories like photographs, films, and videos). It also prohibits public schools from openly and knowingly displaying such obscene material on premises frequented by minors.

Children and teenagers should not be exposed to obscene depictions of illicit sex, nudity, or sexually explicit content—whether through physical media, digital images, or graphic illustrations—in school settings or other places they frequent. Current law already restricts such displays to minors in general, but explicitly covering drawings and illustrations closes potential loopholes, especially with the rise of AI-generated or hand-drawn explicit content. **Extending protections to public schools ensures educational environments remain focused on learning rather than exposing students to harmful material that can contribute to confusion, desensitization, or psychological harm.**

This targeted update strengthens existing safeguards without broadly restricting free speech or artistic expression—it applies only to obscene material as already defined under law and focuses on protecting minors in public and educational spaces.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to **vote in favor of HB 710** and help protect Maryland's children from the display of obscene material.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this critical child protection legislation.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals