



March 2, 2026

I am Dr. James E. Kelly, a Maryland Physician, and a Board-Certified Adult, Child Adolescent, and Forensic Psychiatrist with 40 years of experience- representing the nationwide **Association of American Physicians and Surgeons in strong support to House Bill 924-the Safe Kids Act.**

There should be no limit to our protection of our children from abuse and exploitation especially sexual exploitation including child pornography and child exploitation materials.

Him **Victims** should have the full authorized **protection of the Maryland Attorney General** and should have the right to bring **civil lawsuits** against individuals who have **exploited them or their images**. Children by definition are individuals under the age of 18 and anyone under the age of 18 should be protected as all other children are protected under Maryland law from child pornography crimes.

Maryland should no longer lag behind other states in protecting our children.

Maryland should either meet or exceed federal standards for protecting children from child pornography and exploitation.

The Association of American Physicians and Surgeons urges a favorable report on House Bill 924