

Maryland Coalition Against Pornography, Inc.

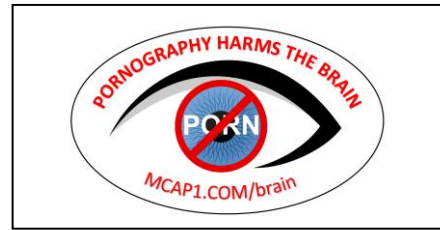
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TOGETHER WE CARE

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In support of HB 693

MCAP wishes to thank Delegate Grammer for sponsoring this bill. Maryland needs to recognize, as most states have, the need for age-verification measures regarding. [Fully half of the states in our country](#) now require uploading of an adult ID or scanning to access online porn. Louisiana, Arkansas, Virginia, Utah, Montana, Texas, North Carolina, Indiana, Idaho, Florida, Kentucky, Nebraska, Georgia, Alabama, Kansas, Oklahoma, Mississippi, South Carolina, South Dakota, Wyoming, North Dakota, Missouri, Arizona, Ohio and Tennessee. Why this trend? Because the dangers to immature youth are worsening. I am terrified elsewhere about the dangers of nudifying apps. It is clear that purveyors of sexually explicit material will not voluntarily police themselves. It is our hope that Maryland will not lag behind in acting. Happily, Maryland is among 10 additional states where such bills are pending.

The Supreme Court, in [Free Speech Coalition, Inc. v. Paxton](#), found age verification requirements constitutional in June 2025, silencing critics who argue they infringe on free speech and privacy rights.

Some critics will belittle age verification as being of little effectiveness because kids will find a way to bypass the methodology. Perhaps, but these guardrail laws nevertheless need to be passed, no less than those that restrict underage purchasing of tobacco or alcohol.

Possible Amendment:

We applaud the enablement of civil actions against commercial entities that violate this new law. **What about also enabling our state Attorney General to be a part of enforcement?** A number of states operate in that way, notably Texas, Ohio, Florida and South Dakota.

We urge a favorable report on HB 693 with that suggested addition.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Cairns
President, MCAP