



Women's Declaration International

Testimony of Carrie Reid
Before the House Judiciary Committee
HB 693
February 12, 2026

SUPPORT

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony in support of HB 693. My name is Carrie Reid. I reside in Talbot County, State of Maryland.

Women's Declaration International (WDI) is a global, nonpartisan group of volunteer women dedicated to protecting women's sex-based rights. [Women's Declaration International USA](#), Inc. (WDI USA) is its U.S. chapter. WDI is based on the [Declaration on Women's Sex-Based Rights](#), which has about 40,000 signatures globally.

Article 8 of the Declaration reaffirms the need for the elimination of violence against women, and Article 9 reaffirms the need for the protection of the rights of the child. On the basis of these articles, we ask you to support HB 693, which would require users of pornography websites to undergo an age verification procedure, thus preventing minors from accessing the site.

Consistently, pornography exposure in children and adolescents is [found to be associated](#) with more sexist attitudes and more sexual aggression - both in terms of perpetration and victimization. That is, boys exposed to pornography are more likely to [perpetrate](#) sexual assault, and girls exposed to pornography are more likely to be victims of sexual assault.

The most cited [survey](#) of online pornography finds that acts of aggression, almost always against women, are found in over 90% of pornographic scenes, often including both physical and verbal aggression. A child's inadvertent exposure to such content can be confusing, upsetting, and traumatizing, and is in fact linked to adverse sexual health later in life.

In particular, the American Psychological Association [found](#) that for girls, exposure to explicit sexual behaviors, including via pornography, "has negative effects in a variety of domains." These effects include: risky sexual behavior, higher rates of eating disorders, depression, low self-esteem, and reduced academic performance.

HB 693 would protect children and adolescents from pornography exposure at a time when their brains, sexuality, and self-esteem are still in [development](#). Notably, such bills are also overwhelmingly supported by most voters; one [survey](#) across multiple states found 77% of likely voters supporting such measures and only 15% opposing.

Given overwhelming evidence showing the adverse effects of pornography exposure on minors, as well as very strong bipartisan popular support for age verification measures, we urge you to support this bill.

Carrie Reid, Signatory to the Declaration on Women's Sex-Based Rights