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[HB 1311](#) -Del. Susan McComas (R). pdf – FAVORABLE
regarding default filtering of obscenity on internet- FAVORABLE

Dear Representatives, I am speaking today to support this bill. Del McComas has written an excellent bill to attempt to slow down and possibly halt the access of pornography on the phones of children.

I am a Pediatric Occupational Therapist who has worked with children in schools – both public and private settings for 31 years. I have seen firsthand how use of cell phones have affected children for good and for bad. The cell phone has affected the social well being and emotional development of many children throughout the States and throughout the world.

The National Center on Sexual Exploitation has done extensive research on the impact on the negative impacts of pornography consumption which often includes, incest, racism, and extreme violence themes.

The Children’s Device Protection Bill mandates that smartphones and tablets automatically enable existing filters for all minors and allows for civil action if manufacturers fail to comply.

Virtually all devices have filters, but they are “OFF” when the device is activated. As a result, children are vulnerable to unwanted or damaging exposure to hardcore pornography.

Pornography harms the brain, particularly for those still neurologically developing, and fuels addiction. This material can ruin lives, and children are at most risk. This evidence should inform state telecommunications policy.

Smart devices already have filtering capabilities and parental control software available on devices, but they are overly complicated for parents and guardians to navigate. Through the status quo of defaulting filtering technology to “OFF,” devices leave the most vulnerable in society particularly at-risk to online harms, such as children without tech-savvy, highly involved, caregivers.

I am representing the Maryland Coalition Against Pornography to ask that you vote FOR this bill to protect our children and their families.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of this bill.
