

JOHNNY RAY SALLING  
*Legislative District 6*  
Baltimore County

Budget and Taxation Committee  
Public Safety, Transportation,  
and Environment Subcommittee



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 321  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3587 · 301-858-3587  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3587  
JohnnyRay.Salling@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Senator William C. Smith, Jr.  
Senator Jeff Waldstreicher  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

To the Chair, Vice Chair, and esteemed Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I express my gratitude to the Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee for permitting me to address Senate Bill 382, also cross-filed as HB671 with Delegate Robin Grammer. This legislation advocates for the inclusion of a mandatory age verification "pop-up" on websites displaying explicit content, specifically pornography, as a preventive measure to restrict minors' access.

Extensive research indicates that the human brain achieves full development around the age of 25 or 26. Exposure to explicit material at an early age may lead children to develop distorted perspectives on sexual interaction, mental and emotional intimacy, fostering unrealistic ideas that can adversely impact their real-life relationships.

Furthermore, such exposure affects dopamine levels in the brain, a natural chemical responsible for feelings of happiness and euphoria. Neuroscientist Dr. Andrew Huber highlights the risks associated with extreme experiences, including the potential for addiction due to repeated pursuit of dopamine peaks.

It is crucial to pass this bill to establish an additional protective barrier for children, ensuring they cannot access age-inappropriate material that may harm their development. I appreciate your time and the opportunity to testify on this matter, and I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 382.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Johnny Ray Salling".

Senator Johnny Ray Salling