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May 12, 2025

Senator Anne Carney - Chair
Representative Any Kuhn - Chair
Committee on Judiciary
100 State House Station Room 438
Augusta, ME 04330

RE: LD 1944: An Act to Protect Children and Adults from Technology-facilitated Sexual Abuse

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

MACDL opposes LD 1944.

LD 1944 proposes to make a crime of depictions of artificially created children or artificially manipulated children. These are not real children and they are not real acts. No real children are being harmed. And yet this bill proposes to treat the conduct the same as real children who are really being harmed. This bill would create a lifetime SORNA registration requirement for some and a 25 period of registration for others. A SORNA registration requirement is extremely burdensome and is stigmatizing and under LD 1944 would require SORNA registration for artificially manipulated depictions.

Additionally, it should be noted that the statute is written in such a way that it could possibly stray into art/1st amendment protections to the United States Constitution.

Lastly, LD 1944 deals with issues of technology, artificial manipulation, and the internet. This is an area of law that is best handled at the federal level so there is a consistent and rational approach for all 50 states.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee on this very important topic.

MACDL urges this committee to vote ought not to pass.

Sincerely,

/s/

Jeremy Pratt, Esq.,
President, MACDL