



June 28, 2023

The Honorable Anthony Portantino
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 787 (Gabriel) Digital Citizenship and Media Literacy - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Portantino,

Common Sense is sponsoring AB 787 (Gabriel), which surveys existing efforts and improves access to digital citizenship, internet safety, and media literacy instruction in California schools. The bill has minimal direct cost to the state.

Children are growing up with the power of digital media and technology to explore, connect, create, and learn in new ways. With this power, young people have great opportunities, but they also face challenges and dilemmas. Schools are dealing with the ramifications, including issues such as [online safety](#), [cyberbullying](#), [privacy](#), [hate speech](#), [misinformation](#), and [digital distraction](#). To address these issues, schools are creating a positive culture around media and technology by incorporating digital citizenship education as part of their curricula.

As an expert in digital citizenship curriculum, instruction, and professional development, Common Sense Media is proud to support AB 787. Our work aligns with the goals of this legislation by addressing top media and tech concerns for schools, and supporting students and educators with authentic learning activities, real-life examples, and professional development. Most importantly, we take a whole-community approach, engaging both families and school communities with tips and advice to support students and create a path to lifelong learning. California's adoption of a statewide survey and advisory committee on digital citizenship and media literacy instruction would ensure California's kids have the skills they need to take control of their digital lives.

Common Sense strongly supports policies and programs that ensure California's students have access to the skills they need to succeed as digital learners, leaders, and citizens tomorrow. For the above reasons, we respectfully request your "Aye" vote on AB 787.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kami Peer".

Kami Peer
California Policy Manager
Common Sense Media