

April 11, 2022

The Honorable
Chair, Assembly Committee on Education
Room 159, Legislative Office Building
1020 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2284 (Gabriel)—SUPPORT

Dear Chair O'Donnell and Honorable Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Common Sense Media, sponsor of this legislation, I am writing to express our strong support for Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel's Digital Literacy and Media Literacy Grant Program: AB 2284.

AB 2284 is a strong example of how our government can provide resources to support educators in preparing students to safely and beneficially navigate in the online world.

Access to the internet does not come with a "safe operation manual". Nonetheless, kids and teens are using the immense power of the internet and mobile technologies to explore, connect, create, and learn in ways never before imagined. With the immense benefits and access the internet provides comes countless ethical dilemmas and challenging issues, such as cyberbullying, hate speech, privacy violations, digital distraction, financial exploitation, problematic content, and more, which are surfacing both in schools and at home.

As a result, educators and parents are struggling with how to make sense of this new world and how to empower kids to use technology responsibly to learn, create, and participate.

In order to help address this, Common Sense and others have developed free-online curriculum for educators interested in incorporating coursework that serves as a "driver's guide for the internet". This bill provides schools and districts with much needed resources to facilitate adoption of these free offerings.

Common Sense currently has relationships with over 136,000 California educators in 30 school districts at 792 schools (figures include educators who have used our content, registered on our site, applied for recognition, or taken an asynchronous course). Our hope is that resources be made available to ensure additional educators are able to prepare students to protect themselves online.

For these reasons, Common Sense is proud to sponsor this measure and respectfully asks for your "Aye" vote on AB 2284.

Sincerely,



Marvin J. Deon II
Vice President, CA Policy, Common Sense Media