



**California  
Catholic  
Conference**

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March 30, 2026

The Honorable Darshana Patel, Chair  
Assembly Education Committee  
State Capitol, Room 126  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2071 (Hoover) Pupil instruction: digital wellness - SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Patel and Honorable Members of the Assembly Education Committee,

The California Catholic Conference is pleased to express its support for AB 2071, as introduced on 2/18/26, which expands health education to include instruction in digital wellness for middle and high school students.

As digital technologies and social media continue to shape the daily lives of young people, it is essential that schools equip students not only with academic knowledge but also with the skills needed to navigate the digital world in a healthy, responsible, and safe manner. AB 2071 builds on existing mental health education requirements by recognizing the growing impact of digital environments on student well-being and by ensuring that digital wellness is addressed as part of a comprehensive approach to student health.

The California Catholic Conference has been actively engaged in this area through partnerships and convenings with organizations such as CAP USA and Common-Sense Media, where we have explored the effects of social media and emerging technologies on children and families. These efforts have consistently underscored the importance of forming students to use technology in ways that promote human dignity, healthy relationships, and personal responsibility.

Catholic teaching affirms that each child is created in the image and likeness of God and deserves to grow in environments that support their mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being. Digital wellness education helps students develop habits of discernment, self-regulation, and respect for themselves and others; skills that are essential for thriving both online and offline. In this way, AB 2071 contributes to the common good by promoting safer, more thoughtful engagement in digital spaces.

For these reasons, as the official public policy voice of the Catholic Church in California, we urge you to vote "AYE" on AB 2071. Should you have any questions regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact Samara Palko, Director of Education, at 916-477-0631 or [spalko@cacatholic.org](mailto:spalko@cacatholic.org).

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathleen Domingo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathleen Domingo  
Executive Director

KBD:SP:mip