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Westly Lauds Passage of Violent Video Game Bill

SACRAMENTO - State Controller Steve Westly today congratulated Assemblymember Leland Yee (D-San Francisco) for his successful effort to limit access of offensive and violent video games to minors.

“A kid with three bucks in his pocket shouldn’t be able to walk into a store and get a game featuring graphic violence, sex acts and racism,” Controller Westly said. “This bill is a common sense solution that lets parents decide what their kids get their hands on - not store clerks. I applaud Assemblymember Yee’s efforts on this issue.”

Existing law does not limit the types of video games available to minors, regardless of their content. Some games allow minors to command their characters to urinate on people as they plead for mercy, have sex in cars, see nudity, customize gang colors for their characters, kill police officers, set people on fire, beat and decapitate women with shovels, and more. One game features a character shooting an African American and saying: “that’s what I call welfare reform.”

Under Assemblymember Yee’s legislation, AB 1179, retailers are prohibited from renting or selling violent video games to minors. Violators face a \$1,000 fine. The bill passed the State Senate and Assembly with broad bipartisan support.

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