May 26, 2016

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives

Dear Chairmen Blunt and Cole, and Ranking Members Murray and DeLauro,

We respectfully request that you include $250 million for K-12 computer science education as part of the fiscal year 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill to expand access to computer science education in classrooms across America.

Computer science is a fundamental skill that is necessary to succeed in the twenty-first century. For our children to remain competitive, it is critical that they have the opportunity to learn not just the basics of computer literacy, but also the computer science skills that are needed to fully participate in today's global economy.

Already, fifty percent of today's jobs require some digital skills. By the end of the decade, some seventy-seven percent of jobs will require technological skills.[1] While computer science plays a role in every sector of the United States economy, and with businesses large and small, only thirty states currently allow students to count computer science courses towards graduation. Furthermore, while over 40,000 computer science students graduated into the workforce last year, there are over 500,000 computing jobs open nationwide.[2] The supply for these skills is not meeting demand, putting the United States at risk of falling behind other nations, who have prioritized the teaching of computer science, if we do not take immediate action.

The implications for not addressing this issue are broad, with job creation and security, and economic competitiveness only being the most obvious. Other implications include national security, where computer science funding can help ensure that the United States has a workforce with the talent and skills to ward off threats, such as cyber-terrorism.

Computer science education creates high paying jobs, underpins nearly every sector of the economy, and is a critical component of our national security. Not equipping our children with these fundamental skills denies them an opportunity to succeed.

The Computer Science Education Coalition and its Members stand firmly behind this request to fund K-12 computer science education. Please do not hesitate to contact Erin Siefring, Chair, Erin@CSECoaltion.org, or Katie Whelan, Executive Director, Katie@CSECoaltion.org, for additional information or with any questions you may have.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

The Computer Science Education Coalition

Accenture
Access Smart
ACM | Association for Computing Machinery
ACT | The App Association
Adobe
AIMS 360
Alliance For Channel Success
Amazon.com, Inc.

[1] According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
[2] https://code.org/promote

American Association of University Women
American Public Power Association
Anita Borg Institute, Inc.
Applied Technical Systems, Inc.
ASPIRA Association
AT&T
AvePoint INC
Battelle
Bay Area Council
Bond Consulting Services
Brittenford Systems
BSA | The Software Alliance
CA Technologies
California Chamber of Commerce
Carter-McGowan Services LLC
Change the Equation
CITGO Petroleum Corporation
ClearPointe
Code.org
CodeHS
College Board
Computer and Communications Industry Association
Computer Science Teachers Association
Computing Research Association
CSRA
CTIA
Cyber Innovation Center
Dropbox, Inc.
EMC Corporation
Ericsson
Excelencia in Education
Expedia, Inc
Facebook
FMS, Inc.
Fusion Media Network
Google
Hewlett Packard Enterprise
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
Hispanic Heritage Foundation
IAC
IBM
IEEE Computer Society
Information Technology Industry Council
Infosys
Intel Corporation
International Technical Consortium
Kumo Technology
Latin American Youth Center
League of United Latin American Citizens
Learning Library TV
LinkedIn
MANA, A National Latina Organization
ManyWorlds, Inc.
Micron Technology, Inc.
Microsoft Corporation
MicroTech
National Center for Women & Information Technology
National Latino Children's Institute
National Math and Science Initiative
National Puerto Rican Coalition
NetCom Learning
Onsupport Corporation
Professional Options LLC
Project Lead The Way
Roybal Foundation
San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce
SAS Institute
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Smiths Group
Society of Women Engineers (SWE)
Space Foundation
State Privacy & Security Association
Stem Education Coalition
STEMx
T-Mobile USA, Inc.
Teach For America
Tech Cumulus
TechNet
Telecommunications Industry Association
Telos Corporation
Trusted Learning Network
Twitter
Tyson Foods Inc
Unbuttoned Innovation INC
United Parcel Service
Univision Communications Inc.
US Licensing Group
US Medical IT
Varian Medical Systems
Verizon
Washington STEM
West Sound Technology Association
Yahoo
Yelp
Zynga