

June 6, 2016

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
U.S. Senate
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20510

Dear Senator Capito:

On behalf of more than 5,000 app companies across the country, I write to urge you to support primary and secondary computer science education in the FY 2017 Labor Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. Doing so will help ensure the United States remains the global leader in technology innovation.

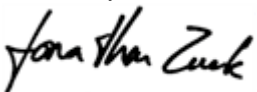
ACT | The App Association represents app makers creating software in the world's most important fields, including healthcare, finance, enterprise, and education. In fewer than eight years, the mobile ecosystem has grown to a \$120 billion industry with some of the most lucrative, rewarding jobs available.

In West Virginia, software developers make an average of \$87,690, which is more than twice the average salary for all occupations statewide. Despite the high compensation, companies that are looking to grow cannot find qualified applicants. In fact, there are more than 134 unfilled software development jobs in the state and the number continues to grow. Throughout the country, there are more than a half-million open positions.

The root of the problem can be traced to the lack of computer science classes in our schools. Even though the majority of careers require technology skills, only a quarter of K-12 schools offer relevant courses to prepare students for the modern workforce.

There is, however, a way to address the shortage of American computer science talent and better align our schools with jobs. We encourage you to make computer science education a national priority in the FY 2017 Labor Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. Our economy and our children's futures depend on it.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Zuck
President
ACT | The App Association