



## Excerpts of U.S. Representatives' Remarks on Computer Science U.S. House Appropriations Committee Markup July 13, 2016

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**Representative Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN/03):** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to rise today to thank Chairman Cole for his tremendous efforts in highlighting the need for computer science education in this country. Literally, this is going to be our 21st century challenge. We've got 500,000 jobs in this country dependent on it. These are the jobs of the future for our new generations and to highlight the need for this, Mr. Chairman, is outstanding. It's important for our manufacturing, it's important for our national defense, and I just hope that Members in the majority and minority continue the Chairman's emphasis on this very important endeavor. So, with that Mr. Chairman, I yield back and I thank Chairman Cole.

**Representative Mike Honda (D-CA/17):** This is a time when we should be funding innovative approaches that help our students meet the demands and challenges of the 21st century. Sixty percent of the jobs that will exist in 10 years, do not exist today. But this bill provides no funding for programs like Computer Science For All, Education, Innovation, and Research, ARPA Ed, and the STEM Master Teacher Core. ...I hope we can reach an agreement that allows a large allocation for this bill so we can improve our nation's ability to support the needs of each and every child.

**Representative Sanford Bishop (D-GA/02):** I'd just like to take a few moments to talk about the Computer Science For All Initiative. We all know that technology is advancing at increasingly fast pace. From the capabilities of our computers as well as the capabilities of our cell phones, the growth of technology providing us access to greater information at our fingertips fosters a more interconnected global economy. I'm very troubled that the Computer Science For All initiative is not funded in this bill.

Our students who are majoring in computer science recognize their value and ability to demand higher wages. 70% of applicants earned a starting salary of \$55,000. Of computer science graduates, over 30% had full-time job offers as soon as they left the university. Although the majority of the applicants are placed, there are still currently over 500,000 computer IT jobs currently unfilled in the country. With the present high demand for computer science majors, it's imperative that we continue to invest heavily in programs that will prepare our youth to be competitive. But only 1 in 4 K-12 schools teaches any computer science course, leaving 75% of students without the opportunity to be a part of that growing and necessary field.

A Google-Gallup survey showed that 9 of 10 parents want computer science taught in their schools. In order to succeed and to compete in this global, fast-moving environment, we need to provide the resources for a diverse set of students to develop the necessary background skills and critical thinking

ability. The need is especially great in African Americans' and in Latino schools.

Mr. Chairman, that's why I've been a supporter of the Computer Science For All development grant and I hope that we can find, somehow, before this process is completed, the necessary resources to fund it, so that we can prepare our students for the 21st-century economy. Young people make up 40% of our population but they are 100% of our future and we have an obligation to put the resources in place so that they will be able to compete in the global marketplace, and so that America will be able to maintain its place in the world economy.

**Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA/13):** Let me associate myself with the remarks of Congressman Sanford-Bishop. I co-chair the tech 2020 initiative of the Congressional Black Caucus and the importance of K through 12 computer science education cannot be overstated. Supporting education in the computer science and STEM fields will help ensure that our nation continues to lead in innovation.

**Representative Mike Simpson (R-ID/02):** Also I agree with Congressman Lee and Congressman Bishop's [sic] on computer science and the need for computer science -- we only have 12 schools in Idaho that offer the AP computer science program.

**Representative Tom Cole (R-OK/04):** For those of you, certainly my friends Ms. Lee and Mr. Bishop, that raise this concern about the computer things. We doubled in the bill the amount of money that the Administration requested for the Student Support and Academic Enrichment state grants from 500 million to a billion dollars. The idea being that specific school districts could decide what they needed and hopefully they would follow that suggestion. But, we will work with you in the course of this because I agree with the point. But we tried to push the money out and down by again doubling what the Administration asked for in that particular area so schools could decide we need more computer science, that's what we can do.

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**Note: Not an official transcript**