



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

July 5, 2016

Chairman Hal Rogers
Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Tom Cole
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Cole,

The United States is not preparing our students for careers in computer science, and more than education is at stake. This threatens our national security as well. We ask that you take this into consideration and make K-12 computer science education a priority in the FY 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education appropriations bill.

Virtually every field today is reliant on computer science – and the military is no exception. It’s essential that we have enough Americans who are educated in computer science, so we have a deep enough talent pool to take on the responsibilities of operating in an increasingly computerized national defense.

An ample supply of computer science graduates is also crucial to our ability to defend against potentially crippling cyberattacks. A report on cybersecurity from the Center for Strategic and International Studies recommended, “Ideally, increasing the supply of skilled cyber workers would be part of a larger national effort to address the declining science and technology workforce.”

But our schools aren’t coming close to meeting these needs. Only about one in four K-12 schools teaches computer science, and our universities are producing less than 50,000 computer science graduates a year. Some states and school districts are making valiant efforts to boost this pipeline, but as a national security priority, we need to support these efforts.

Other countries, notably China, are already taking steps to ensure that all of their students have the opportunity to take computer science. It’s crucial that the United States not fall behind.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Joe Wilson
Member of Congress

Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress