



December 5, 2016

Dear Member of Congress,

As you wrap up the 114th Congress, transition to the 115th, and ultimately resume consideration and completion of the Fiscal Year 2017 Appropriations process, we urge you to include dedicated funding for K-12 computer science education. 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 in-depth computer science skills needed to fully participate in today's global economy.

The implications for not addressing this issue are broad, with job creation 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 needed to ward off threats such as cyber-terrorism.

Additionally, computing jobs are high paying jobs, and foundational familiarity in computer science is increasingly needed for jobs across nearly every sector of the economy. The current lack of investment in computer science has resulted in over 500,000 vacant computing jobs across the country. A federal investment is necessary to fill the talent pipeline for these high-paying jobs. The failure to equip our children with these fundamental skills denies them an opportunity to succeed, undermines our national security, and limits our ability to reach our nation's economic potential.

Many states and districts understand the importance of computer science education and have been investing limited resources to expand access to this critical skill. Over the past year we have seen bi-partisan support for this issue grow in both the House and Senate. This momentum must continue. Other nations are taking significant steps to integrate computer science education into their classrooms, and we must do the same if we do not want to fall behind in the increasingly global economy. A federal investment in computer science education will help to complement the ongoing efforts in the states and expedite the teaching of this subject in our schools. As the appropriations process moves forward, we ask that you prioritize dedicated funding for K-12 computer science education.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Erin Siefring
Co-Chair | Computer Science Education Coalition