

July 28, 2010

The Honorable Jared Polis
US House of Representatives
501 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Polis:

Computing opens limitless opportunities for students and is driving economic recovery and societal change. The technologies that are its engine depend on the field of computer science. It is more important than ever that the country's K-12 education system expose young people to computer science and its endless possibilities. **We thank you for your work on the *Computer Science Education Act* and endorse this important legislation.** It is a crucial first step to ensuring that state and local education agencies, educators, administrators, and industry move toward strengthening K-12 computer science education across the country.

This legislation will support state efforts to thoughtfully consider how to develop and implement the supports and programs needed to deliver high-quality computer science education. To specifically strengthen computer science education this legislation will:

- fund planning grants for states to work with stakeholders to assess their computer science offerings in K-12 and develop concrete steps to strengthen them;
- support five-year implementation grants for states to develop and implement computer science standards, curriculum, and assessments and build professional development and teacher certification programs, among other activities; and
- support important steps to ensuring that teacher preparation programs and certification processes appropriately consider the needs of computer science educators.

As significant employers and major stakeholders in the computing field, we know all too well that securing our cyber-infrastructure, protecting national security, and making our energy infrastructure more efficient are among numerous issues depending on computing and an innovative workforce. The field holds tremendous promise, but current federal, state and local policies undercut access to computer science courses and curriculum in K-12 classrooms. Too few students have the opportunity to take engaging and rigorous computer science in high school and there is little ethnic and gender diversity among those who do. Further, too few professional development opportunities exist for computer science teachers. This is a national failing, and one we can ill afford as computing is central to society and worldwide economic growth. This legislation is a crucial first step toward addressing this national challenge.

Again, we thank you and your staff for your work and look forward to working with you to be sure computer science education is adequately addressed as Congress considers legislation to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Signed,
The Computing in the Core Coalition:

Anita Borg Institute for Women and Technology
Association for Computing Machinery
Computer Science Teachers Association
Computing Research Association
Google
Intel Corporation
Microsoft
National Center for Women and Information Technology
SAS