

## **Katie Hendrickson Testimony in Support of Ohio H.B. 170**

Thank you, members of the committee, Chair Brenner, and Vice Chair Slaby.

My name is Katie Hendrickson. I live in Athens, Ohio. I taught middle school mathematics in southeastern Ohio for six years. I'm the state policy and advocacy manager at Code.org, a 501c3 nonprofit dedicated to increasing computer science in K-12 especially for female students and underrepresented minority students. Code.org strongly supports the passage of House Bill 170 and would like to thank the sponsors, Representative Carfagna and Representative Duffey, for elevating this issue of CS access.

**Preservice:** One of the biggest issues currently facing expansion of CS education is a lack of qualified teachers, and unclear policy related to teacher certification in CS. Due to increasing demand for CS courses, we need to be able to scale the teaching force in CS to meet the demand for these courses, while also making sure that these teachers are adequately prepared to teach computer science. It takes time to develop preservice programs -- and in 2015, of 51 graduates nationwide prepared to teach CS, not a single Ohio teacher graduated prepared to teach Computer Science. Meanwhile, Ohio graduated 581 teachers in mathematics and 436 teachers in science.

**Certification:** While comprehensive certifications and preservice teacher programs being developed, teachers could be allowed to teach CS under a temporary license after receiving high-quality professional development to demonstrate their content knowledge. But in addition for all secondary CS teachers to have modern CS knowledge, it's important for all elementary teachers to receive professional development in computer science if they are going to be teaching it. If students are exposed to computer science early on, it gives them a chance to get excited about learning it before they begin choosing classes to take in secondary school.

**Code.org PD:** Teacher professional development is a key part of preparing teachers in CS. Code.org is thrilled to partner with 3 individuals and one organization in providing professional learning in computer science fundamentals to Ohio teachers. By the beginning of next school year, over 130 high school teachers, 25 middle school teachers, and 2000 elementary school teachers will have been trained by Code.org to teach computer science in their classroom.

**Make CS count:** And when students have opportunities to take CS, it's important that they are able to fit it into their schedules. Allowing rigorous computer science courses to satisfy a math or science graduation requirement will not require students to take computer science or schools to teach it. What it *will* do is encourage more students to take it, as recent data shows that in states where computer science counts, enrollment is as much as 50% higher. It will also demonstrate the value and importance of computer science education to help students prepare for college and careers.

Code.org appreciates the enthusiasm and support around computer science and looks forward to working with the legislature in the future on further expanding computer

science access, such as funding for computer science professional development and enabling all high schools to offer computer science. This will increase opportunities for schools to offer computer science experiences for students.

Thank you for your work on behalf of Ohio's students, and for the opportunity to testify before you today in support of House Bill 170. I would be happy to answer any questions.