



25 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: 202-346-1100

September 25, 2017

Senator Peggy Lehner
Chairwoman
Senate Education Committee
Senate Building, 1 Capitol Square
First Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

As we did in the House, Google appreciates the opportunity to offer its support for HB 170 and its goal to increase the availability of computer science education in Ohio classrooms.

Computer science (CS) education is a pathway to innovation, to creativity and to exciting career opportunities. We believe that all students deserve these opportunities. Nationally, there are 523,872 open computing jobs, but last year, Ohio had only 1,137 computer science graduates.

One of the reasons there are so few computer science graduates is that too few students have the opportunity to study computer science in high school. Google's research shows that only 25% of U.S. schools currently offer CS with programming or coding, despite the fact that 91% of parents want their children to learn computer science. In addition, schools with higher percentages of students living in households below the poverty line are even less likely to offer rigorous computer science courses.

If HB 170 is signed into law it will give more students access to CS and more school administrators and teachers the resources they need to offer CS education at their schools. Offering the opportunity to learn computer science is absolutely critical for preparing our students for the career needs of the 21st century - not just for coding or computing occupations, but for every career.

Thank you for taking Google's support into consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ron Barnes".

Ron Barnes
Head of State Legislative Affairs