



Dear Chairman Dolan and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share written proponent testimony on House Bill 33 in support of the computer science budget language and funding.

Battelle, based right here in Columbus, Ohio, is the world's largest, independent, non-profit research and development organization. Battelle conducts science and creates technologies for companies around the world.

For over ninety years, Battelle has brought expertise and a multidisciplinary collaborative approach to solving the world's most pressing challenges. Today, in Battelle's labs, our scientists are perfecting ways to safely destroy the "PFAS" or "forever chemicals" found more and more in Ohio's waterways. Battelle engineers are developing carbon capture methods to pull carbon dioxide from the air and store it deep underground.

Battelle works in Health, National Security, Environment, Infrastructure, and in industries including agriculture and energy. Computational thinking is a critical skill for employees who work in each of these fields. We need reverse engineers to solve the toughest Computer Science problems in the world. We need data scientists to lead model development to further our understanding of adverse events. We need software engineers to design, develop, document, test, and debug new and existing software systems. The list continues but they all share a common need. A need for a computationally educated workforce. A need for a pipeline of students who are being exposed early to STEM careers and to computer science.

Battelle is not alone. From 2015 to 2021, the number of jobs in Computer Science in Ohio grew 14%, ranking 24th nationally in Computer Science occupational job growth over this period. Every day, Ohio employers are working to fill openings in computer science— from data analytics to cloud computing, cybersecurity, Internet of Things, artificial intelligence, programming, networking and beyond.

Putting the recommendations from the Ohio state plan for Computer Science into action is a huge step forward to ensuring Ohio is prepared to meet the needs of our future workforce.

Thank you for your time and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wesley Hall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wesley Hall
Vice President of Philanthropy and Education