

May 14, 2023

Senator Dolan:

I am a resident of Solon, Ohio, a parent of two daughters, ages 13 and 10, and a Computer Science teacher at Chagrin Falls High School. In each of these roles, it is very important to me that all children in Ohio have access to quality computer science education.

As I attend various professional development opportunities, I meet local teachers who are working very hard to build their skills to provide quality instruction in Computer Science. Oftentimes, they are working to learn Computer Science and programming for the first time themselves so that they can provide meaningful opportunities for the children and students in our community. These teachers are committing their time, attention, and energy to this critical subject because they realize that these opportunities can truly make a difference in students' lives by providing them with skills that can lead to a variety of technology related careers. Without proper support and funding, teachers will not be able to sustain these efforts to provide opportunities for our children.

At the same time, I meet teachers from other states, particularly Kentucky and Virginia, that seem to have much more robust support for computer science education. I fear that Ohio will fall behind other states in this area if we don't work to provide proper support for computer science and technology education. Without a qualified and well-educated workforce, companies will choose other states for their technology related projects and investments.

Like other parents in Ohio, I hope my own children will be able to thrive with a high-quality education that can lead to meaningful and satisfying work opportunities close to home. I hope that the state of Ohio can develop a workforce that has the required technology skills to keep us all healthy and safe in the modern world. For these hopes to be realized, I believe it is critical that Ohio restore funding for computer science in the state operating budget at the level of \$24 million.

We need to fund the Computer Science Promise and TeachCS Grants to give students in *any* district the opportunity to take computer science courses and to provide professional development for teachers in underserved school districts.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Nagano
6947 Kingswood Drive
Solon, OH 44139