Date: May 8, 2023
To: Members of the Ohio Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee
RE: State Operating Budget for FY 24 and 25

Dear Committee Members,

I'm offering my voice today for increased financial support of computer science education and computing workforce development in Ohio. The state has the potential to meet the growing technological demands of the 21st century economy by ensuring strong education and training in computing. Currently, Ohio ranks in the bottom half of the nation in terms of high school computer science education with less than half of Ohio's public schools offering any kind of computer science courses. This current approach will not meet the growing demands for a highly trained, technologically capable workforce. If Ohio does not develop the needed educated workforce that is in demand, then companies needing this type of employee will inevitably seek elsewhere to locate. I urge you to restore computer science funding in the state operating budget at $24 million over the biennium. I also ask that you provide $8 million to fund the Teach Computer Science Grants. This funding will get more teachers in the field teaching computer science and prioritize school districts that are underserved or do not have a computer science course.

Ohio has the potential to be a strong leader in computer science education and workforce development. I ask that you fund this effort so that this potential can be realized.

Sincerely,

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