Dear Ohio Senate Finance Committee,

We are writing to express our strong support for funding computer science education in Ohio. Locally, we have convened local IT/CS leaders from industry, higher-education, and community leaders to work on expanding access to computer science (CS) careers. Our region is united in our focus to expand CS access. In order to do that, we need to properly fund these efforts. As you are aware, Ohio currently ranks 34th in the nation for high schools that offer computer science courses, and only 48% of public schools in the state offer any type of computer science education. This lack of access to computer science education is an issue in our region.

These statistics reveal a troubling gap in access to computer science education across Ohio. Not only does this limit the opportunities available to students who may be interested in pursuing careers in technology, but it also puts Ohio at a competitive disadvantage in the national and global economy. In order to remain competitive and meet the needs of new employers coming to Ohio, it is imperative that we invest in building a strong pipeline of computer science talent from K-12 schools.

Fortunately, the Governor's budget proposal includes several recommendations that would help improve access to computer science education across the state. By investing in teacher training programs, providing funding for new computer science courses and resources, and expanding access to advanced coursework, we can help build a workforce that is better equipped to meet the needs of Ohio's growing tech sector.

I urge you to support funding for computer science education in Ohio and to prioritize this critical issue in the coming budget cycle. By doing so, we can help build a stronger, more equitable future for all Ohio students.

Sincerely,

Stacy Wall Schweikhart
CEO, Learn to Earn Dayton