Pandata, LLC
2515 Jay Ave., Suite 101
Lakewood OH, 44113

May 9, 2023

RE: **The Urgency of Computer Science Education and Funding in Ohio**

Dear Ohio Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee Members,

As a data scientist and technology professional, I understand the growing importance of digital and AI literacy in today's workforce. That's why I'm writing to advocate for computer science education and funding in the State of Ohio operating budget.

In March, our organization joined the computer science advocacy coalition letter. We were initially encouraged by Governor Mike DeWine's proposed investments but disheartened by the removal of funding in the House version. With the budget now in the Ohio Senate, I urge you to seize this opportunity and secure computer science funding for our students' future.

I specifically advocate for the following:

1. Restore computer science funding at $24 million over the biennium.
2. Allocate $8 million for Teach Computer Science Grants, prioritizing underserved districts.
3. Fund the Computer Science Promise at $8 million, providing students access to computer science courses.
4. Allocate $8 million to the Computer Science Council, supporting afterschool programs and shaping Ohio's computer science future.

Investing in computer science education is crucial for our state's success. By equipping students with digital and AI literacy, we can create a strong, innovative workforce to drive Ohio's economy forward.

Thank you for considering this vital issue. Together, we can make a difference in our students' lives and our great state's future.

Sincerely,

Cal Al-Dhubaib

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Pandata, LLC

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