



May 9, 2023

To: Members of the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee

Subject: HB 33 State Operating Budget for 2024 & 2025

Dear Ohio Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee,

I am writing to express my support and advocate for Computer Science education and funding in the State of Ohio operating budget.

I am a technologist based in Cleveland, OH and a leader of a technology company that has been providing innovative and transformational products and services for customers distributed globally. We compete against other global companies. Our success and ability to prosper depends on the local availability of a well-educated and skilled talent pool. Our state's commitment to creating a talent pool that is schooled in computer technology and advanced topics such as AI, Machine Learning is essential for companies like Vertex and several others that make Ohio its home. I seek your support and commitment to fund the initiatives that will lay the foundation for creating such a talent pool.

I specifically advocate for the following:

1. Restore computer science funding at \$24 million.
2. Allocate \$8 million for Teach Computer Science Grants
3. Fund the Computer Science Promise at \$8 million to provide students access to Computer Science courses.
4. Allocate \$8 million to the Computer Science Council, supporting after-school programs.

Your support and commitment to these programs and initiatives is essential for making Ohio an attractive place for technology companies.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your support.

Sincerely,

*Ganesh Iyer*

Ganesh Iyer  
President  
Vertex Computer Systems