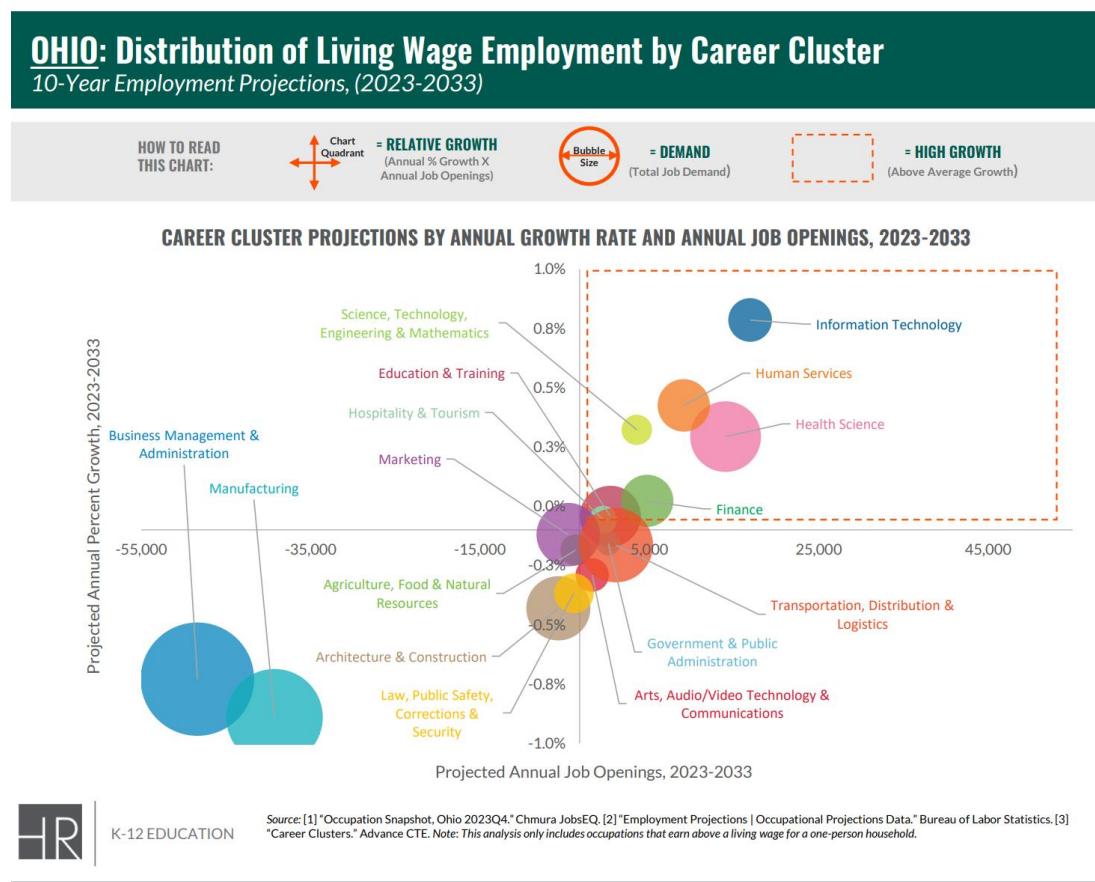Chair Fowler Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Robinson and members of the House Education Committee:

Thank you for accepting testimony on HB 96.

According to a Hanover Research Report, Information Technology has the highest projected annual growth rate and annual job openings out of all 16 career clusters.

OHIO: Distribution of Living Wage Employment by Career Cluster
10-Year Employment Projections, (2023-2033)

In addition, computing careers are becoming essential in all industry sectors, including information systems managers, cyber security technicians, data analysts, and manufacturing engineering technicians.

Access to computer science education is at the core of all Information Technology and computing careers. Ohio students deserve access to these high growth and high demand careers. The future of our economy depends on our ability to increase the number of students who access computer science.

Proposed ammendments to the state budget provide three separate solutions to support school districts to increase access to Computer Science.

1. Enacting a computer science graduation requirement
2. Funding a CS District Playbook at $500,000
3. Extending the computer science teacher licensure waiver through 2032

Funding proposed for the CS District Playbook is essential for implementation of a computer science graduation requirement. School districts will require this guidance. This graduation requirement is unlike more recent changes or additions to graduation requirements. This graduation requirement requires a district-wide plan for teacher licensure, equipement infrastructure, and documentation of student competency to meet the graduation requirement. No other recent graduation requirements has required additional FTEs or licensure areas that do not already exist in schools. This shift is significant for school districts. It can not be implemented without clear guidance and recommendations from peer districts.

The CS District Playbook would distribute funds to select school districs representing different populations across the state. Implementation plans will vary widely between different sized school districts and different regions of the state. Selected school districts will represent rural, urban, suburban as well as large and small districts. Each selected school district would document guidance to be made publicly available by June 30, 2027.

CS District Playbook: Guidance Categories

- Courses, course progression, and EMIS course codes
- Licensure preparation pathways and licensure partnerships
- Staffing and scheduling
- Technical asset and equipement management
- Curriculum, Instruction, & Professional Development
- Industry aligned pathways and partnerships (regional focused)

In education, everything is about backwards planning. Below is the backwards planning we are required to manage for the CS Graduation Requirement.

June 2026 – The State of Ohio approves $500,000 for a CS District Playbook

June 2027 – Selected school districts produce the CS District Playbook

SY 2028-2029 - Districts begin implementation of the CS Graduation Requirement. Freshmen entering high school are now subject to a CS Graduation Requirement.

May 2032 – Students Graduate with a CS Graduation Requirement.

If we implement a plan for this graduation requirement later than 2028, we are failing to support students in the Class of 2032.

If we provide guidance later than 2027, we are failing to support school districts with appropriate guidance to implement this graduation requirement.

The CS District Playbook is urgent. If the State of Ohio chooses to support a CS Graduation Requirement, it must be paired with the CS District Playbook to provide appropriate guidance to meet this goal and deadline.

If we do not support the, A) extension of the computer science teacher licensure wiaver through 2032, B) fuding $500,000 for the CS District Playbook, and C) the Teach CS Program (under the ODHE budget), then we should not have a CS Graduation Requirement. A CS Graudation Requirement relies on all amendments and budget items.

I hope you take the time to strongly consider the various ammendments and budget items that support the most high growth and high demand career cluster in Ohio. I also hope you are intentional about how each ammendment and budget item support the ultimate goal of increasing access to computer science educaiton through a CS Graduation Requirement.

Thank you for your continued service and support for Ohio students, families, and educators.

Sincerely,

Chelsey C. Kohn

Director, Tech Talent Pipeline

Center for Computing Education & Instruction

Cleveland Metropolitan School District & Cleveland State University