

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

Thank you for accepting testimony on HB 96.

My name is John Dutton. I teach computer science at MC<sup>2</sup>STEM High School in Cleveland Metropolitan School District. I am also the President of the Computer Science Teachers' Association of Ohio (CSTA Ohio). I graduated in 2002 with a degree in Computer Science from Case Western Reserve University, and I have been in the classroom for 21 years.

<u>Access to a Computer Science class</u>	
<i>Ohio</i>	61%
Pennsylvania	75%
West Virginia	78%
Kentucky	78%
Indiana	91%

In addition to the stark numbers above, many Ohio schools dropped computer science last school year. To fix this problem, Ohio must join the 32 states that already require high schools to offer computer science. But we must do it the right way, preparing districts, schools and teachers to meet the needs of Ohio's students and tech industry. Therefore, I respectfully request that the House add following budget amendments to HB 96:

- 1) Implement a computer science **graduation requirement**.
- 2) Provide \$500,000 for the creation of comprehensive resources for school districts on implementing computer science, known as the "**CS District Playbook**." School districts will be selected to represent large, small, rural, suburban and urban populations. Districts will receive funding to collaborate and create a playbook of best practices which will be publicly available by June 30, 2027:

<u>CS District Playbook Contents</u>
Course Progression Staffing and Scheduling Curriculum and Technical Asset Management Professional Learning Industry-aligned Academic Pathways

- 3) Extend the computer science **teacher licensure waiver** through 2032, which is the first year students will graduate under this new computer science graduation requirement. TeachCS grants are helping to train some of the approximately 3000 additional computer science teachers needed to implement a graduation requirement, but many experienced teachers will need the waiver to remain in place as Ohio prepares students for tomorrow's careers.

Why should we make this commitment to computer science?

- We hear about Artificial Intelligence all of the time in our personal and professional lives; computer science concepts are key to AI literacy and development.
- Computer science teaches students computational thinking, problem-solving, and data analysis, skills that are not only relevant for every career, but that show students how to think creatively about any problem. I often say that computer science *tricks* students into doing math!
- Ohio is falling further behind neighboring states that have supported computer science education for years; remaining behind most other states and countries endangers our workforce and security.

Investing in K-12 computer science will help fill in-demand jobs, and help Ohio position itself as a leader on critical technology education.

Thank you,



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