**Chelsey Cook**

John Marshall IT

Portfolio Network

To Chair Lehner and the Senate Education Committee,

House Bill 170 is directly aligned to our innovative work at John Marshall School of Information Technology. With a relevant definition of Computer Science, credit toward graduation requirements, and teacher pathways toward certification, House Bill 170 will bring Computer Science to more students in Ohio.

Our school has shown the positive impacts of Computer Science Education. Our Overall Value Add on our State Report card grew from an F in SY 15-16 to an A in SY 16-17.

John Marshall IT is the first school in the State of Ohio to focus on Computer Science. We are part of the Portfolio Model under the Cleveland Plan which is opening new schools to provide high quality seats for students. Our educational model includes a four year sequence of Computer Science coursework. All core content classes at John Marshall IT incorporate Computational Thinking standards from the Computer Science Principles Course.

Each student has an opportunity to select a John Marshall IT Pathway for their 11th and 12th grade coursework and projects. Our Pathways focus around high-need jobs within the IT workforce:

* Software Development | Cleveland State University Partnership
* Health IT | John Carroll University Partnership
* Cyber Security and Networking | Cuyahoga Community College Partnership

In our Software Development Pathway students design websites and apps while writing small grants to fund development. Students in our Health IT Pathway participate in Cleveland Clinic *eXpressions* and set up a Mock Clinic where they diagnose symptoms using a computer program with a database of diseases. Cuyahoga Community College hosts our Cyber Security and Networking Pathway students for year round courses toward CompTIA (A+) Certification or Cisco Certified Network Administrator (CCNA) Certification.

Computer Science coursework teaches students *how to think,* not *what to think.* We believe more students in Ohio deserve access to relevant Computer Science skills in their classrooms. Many of the activities at our school are based around direct feedback from Northeast Ohio employers who say they want students to know how to build products in teams and create solutions for complicated problems. Our students are digital natives and they deserve a chance to learn how to create the technology of their future. Learning Computer Science will quickly become similar to learning how to read. Without this skill, students will not be ready for jobs in the future.

I’m excited for the opportunity to submit this testimony on House Bill 170. Our high school team at John Marshall School of Information Technology has worked hard to connect our students to the IT workforce and provide equity in Computer Science Education.

Thank you to Representatives Carfagna and Duffey for being champions of this work.

Chelsey Cook

Educator: Principal

John Marshall School of Information Technology

Chelsey.cook@clevelandmetroschools.org

3952 W. 140th Street • Cleveland, OH 44111 • Office: 216.838-6000 • Cell: 785-221-1676

ClevelandMetroSchools.org/JohnMarshallIT