



February 22, 2015

The Honorable Sondra Erickson  
479 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

**Re: HF 672—SUPPORT**

Dear Chairwoman Erickson,

Code.org strongly supports HF 672, which would allow school districts to count computer science toward a mathematics graduation requirement. The proposed legislation will help foster the growth of computer science offerings in Minnesota's K-12 system.

Computing is a foundational skill for K-12 students. It develops students' computational and critical thinking skills and teaches them how to create—not just use—new technologies. Computer science is driving job growth and innovation in Illinois and throughout the United States. More than half of projected jobs in STEM fields are in computing occupations, and computer science is one of the most desirable degrees from new college graduates.

According to the Conference Board, the state of Minnesota currently has about 15,000 open computing jobs, and demand for computing jobs is growing at 3.6 times the state average. The proposed changes to high school graduation requirements will better prepare Minnesota's students for high paying, in-demand careers and position Minnesota as a national leader in K-12 computer science education.

Thank you for your efforts to give young people in Minnesota the education they need to be successful when they leave the K-12 system. Code.org its partners support giving all of them access to computer science.

If you have any questions, please contact Amy Hirotaka, State Policy and Advocacy Manager, at [amy@code.org](mailto:amy@code.org). Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Cameron Wilson  
Chief Operating Officer and VP of Government Affairs  
Code.org  
[www.code.org](http://www.code.org)