January 3, 2023

Dear Legislators:

Computer Science for All Minnesota (CSforAll-MN) is a collaborative effort by leaders in education, industry, nonprofit organizations, and higher education institutions from across Minnesota committed to advancing equitable computer science education policies and opportunities for every K-12 student in the state. CSforAll-MN has studied the current status of CS education in Minnesota (see briefs), hosted listening sessions, listened to CS education leaders in other states, and convened a diversity of stakeholders in Minnesota to understand the landscape, barriers, needs, and opportunities for expanding CS education in Minnesota.

We are writing today in support of The Computer Science Education Advancement Fund (SF757 and HF759). The CS Education Advancement bills represent a significant step forward to bring Minnesota out of last place in the nation for CS education. The sections of the bill address critical priorities of the state in order to move forward, including creating a state plan, CS standards, CS teacher licensure, CS in teacher preparation programs, and most significantly, establishing funding for school districts to add CS across K-12 grades.

The listening sessions CSforAll-MN hosted made it clear that Minnesotans want computer science in K-12 schools. Participants expressed many reasons that CS is important, from helping students become engaged citizens in a tech driven world to providing opportunities for all students to understand the tech careers key to Minnesota's economy. However, stakeholders noted that it will be imperative to have direction and support from the state. Many believe that computer science learning needs to begin in elementary and middle school, that the state must identify what CS content should be taught and who is eligible to teach it, and that districts will need guided support and funding to implement CS education. Minnesota school districts see the need to bring CS to their students, but they cannot do it alone, and they want to do it in coordination with each other.

The CS Education Advancement Fund bill can provide the direction and guidance that is needed for schools to implement computer science education, bringing Minnesota out of

last place. I urge you to act now to make a sizable investment in CS education so that we can move from last to first in the nation .

Sincerely,

Jennifer Rosato, National Center for CS Education at the College of St. Scholastica
on behalf of the CSforAll-MN Steering Committee