

To whom it may concern,

I've been an educator in Duluth for over 30 years. I have taught in the STEM fields for the majority of those years. I have always been proud to say I teach in Minnesota as our state is, in many ways, a leader in public education. We rank highly in most metrics when it comes to educating our youth.

Recently I had the privilege of participating in the Computer Science for Duluth (CS4DLH) professional development program. CS4DLH was (is) a worthwhile PD opportunity that was carefully prepared and executed by people who clearly care about Computer Science education and the teachers that will stand and deliver the lessons, specifically, and the subject, broadly. Not all PD opportunities are of the quality that the CS4DLH program was. It made good use of our time and will have a lasting effect on our curriculum. Not to mention that our students love the activities that were developed.

So, as proud as I am of the being a Minnesota teacher, I'm equally embarrassed by our standing when it comes to Computer Science. Last in the nation in schools that offer CS in their curriculum is baffling. And last by a wide margin.

I'm disappointed at the amount of funding proposed by the omnibus bill. The amount is nowhere near what was requested and would be required to remedy our pitiful position.

Carl Sagan once said "we've arranged a society based on science and technology that no one understands anything about. This is a prescription for disaster". Our state has a chance to invest in an effort to mitigate this possible disaster. It would be foolish to miss that opportunity by underfunding programs that address the problem.

Respectfully,

William Zwak
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