



TECHNET
THE VOICE OF THE
INNOVATION ECONOMY

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March 23, 2023

The Honorable Liz Lee
Minnesota House of Representatives
539 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Lee,

I write to you today on behalf of TechNet in support of HF 759 (Lee) which makes a series of important proposals to enhance computer science access and opportunity for Minnesota students.

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating a targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50-state level. TechNet's diverse membership includes dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents more than five million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance.

The rise of digital technology is shifting the needs of education, the workforce, and the economy. Now more than ever, ensuring students receive a well-rounded education in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields is a necessity for future growth. In fact, Minnesota is expected to experience a 7% increase in tech occupation job growth between 2020 and 2030.¹

Computing is one of the fastest-growing, highest-paying, and largest sector of new jobs in the country. It is used in virtually every field, making it foundational knowledge for those entering the job market. Providing increased access to computer science education and career pathways is a critical step toward ensuring that the next generation of Minnesotans remain competitive in the global economy.

This bill makes many positive policy changes that are outlined in our Education and Workforce Development policy principles such as promoting high standards, making computer science by ensuring that a qualified computer science course may fulfill a

¹ "Cyberstates 2021," CompTIA, March 2021, https://www.cyberstates.org/pdf/CompTIA_Cyberstates_2021.pdf.

core science or math high school graduation requirement, and establishing an ongoing funding stream of \$4 million.

With global economic leadership at stake, education and workforce development are more critical than ever. TechNet supports bills like this that help prepare our students to be a successful part of a global, interconnected, and technology-driven economy.

For these reasons, TechNet strongly supports HF 759 and appreciates you bringing this important piece of legislation forward.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyler Diers', is centered below the 'Thank you,' text.

Tyler Diers
Executive Director, Midwest
TechNet

Cc: Rep. Cheryl Youakim, Chair
Rep. Ron Kresha, Republican Lead