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February 2, 2023

Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

Re: Minnesota Computer Science Education Advancement Act (HF 759 and SF 757)

Dear Legislators

Code.org strongly supports the Minnesota Computer Science Education Advancement Act (HF 759 and SF 757). This legislation will expand access to K-12 computer science through a number of provisions, including establishing a funding source for teacher training, which is critical for students' future success.

Computer science 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. Computing occupations are the fastest-growing, best paying, and now the largest sector of all new wages in the United States. Every child deserves the opportunity to succeed.

Eleven CEOs of Minnesota based industries have signed on to the Computer Science: Opportunity for Every Student (CEOsForCS) letter which is a call "for every student in every school to have the opportunity to learn computer science." https://www.ceosforcs.com/

In July of 2022, Governor Tim Walz committed to expanding K-12 Computer Science Education in the state of Minnesota. https://www.nga.org/computerscience/

The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that there are over 12,100 open computing jobs in Minnesota with an average salary of $92,494. This legislation will better prepare Minnesota's students for high-paying, in-demand careers.

Unfortunately, according to the data reported to us by the Minnesota Department of Education, only 21% of Minnesota public high schools offer even one foundational computer science course to its students. SF 757 reestablishes Minnesota's commitment to providing the best educational opportunities to its students. https://advocacy.code.org/state-handouts/Minnesota.pdf

Thank you for your efforts in providing Minnesota's students with the opportunity they need to be successful upon leaving K-12. This legislation will position Minnesota as one of the leaders in the growing movement to bring K-12 computer science education in schools.

Please reach out to us if we can be of further assistance as you consider this legislation.

Sincerely,

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