



March 17, 2021

Members  
Connecticut General Assembly  
210 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106  
*via email only*

re: Connecticut 2021 Legislative Session, S.B. 168, S.B. 675, and S.B. 1033

Dear Esteemed Lawmakers,

There is unprecedented interest and action this 2021 legislative session aimed at expanding computer science (CS) education within Connecticut's K-12 system. CS education draws overwhelming support – not only from industry and its leaders, but among regular Americans who want their children to be prepared to participate in a global economy and society. Currently, only 8 percent of Connecticut's high school graduates have been exposed to computer science coursework or training. There is a national movement sweeping the country for CS access and participation in grades K-12 as it is now considered foundational learning for all children. Our shared goal should be that every student has access to high-quality CS instruction and programming, and real progress will require meaningful investment.

A comprehensive statewide [CS Plan](#) was adopted by the CT State Board of Education in June 2020 and supported by the Governor's Workforce Council Strategic Plan in October 2020. In order to meet goals as outlined in these plans, teacher preparation and training in CS needs to occur on a massive scale. Capacity building will help to ensure that these goals can be met by our educators in the classroom and will lay a foundation for sustained, high-quality K-12 CS education throughout Connecticut. Our neighbors in Rhode Island and New York have implemented CS training for its teachers on a large scale and are often considered leaders in the national movement. Southern states such as Alabama, Arkansas, and Florida have committed millions of dollars over multiple years to educate young people as part of a targeted workforce strategy. It is important that Connecticut does not fall behind its peers, or we will be left behind.

We would be grateful if you would consider our efforts to expand this critical content area and skill within all of Connecticut's K-12 public schools by voting in favor of the following bills:

- [S.B. 168](#): AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.
- [S.B. 675](#): AN ACT CONCERNING THE SUBMISSION OF PROGRESS REPORTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONNECTICUT CS PLAN.
- [S.B.1033](#): AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND FINANCIAL LITERACY AS PART OF THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS.

Thank you for working tirelessly to create opportunities for our students.

Sincerely,



CBIA, Chris DiPentima, President & CEO



CODE.org, Amy Roberts, Director of State & Government Affairs



College Board, Ashley Gibson, Director, Global Policy & External Relations



CT-CSTA, Jacqueline Corricelli, President



Infosys, Anurag Varma, Global Head of Government & Public Affairs



Microsoft, Jay A. Summerson, Senior Director of Government Affairs



ReadyCT, Shannon M. Marimón, Executive Director



Sikorsky, a Lockheed Martin Company, Paul Lemmo, President



Stanley Black & Decker, James Loree, President & CEO



Tata Consultancy Services, Surya Kant, Chairman North America



Travelers, Alan Schnitzer, Chairman & CEO



cc: Josh Geballe, Chief Operating Officer & Commissioner, Department of Administrative Services  
David Lehman, Commissioner, Department of Economic & Community Development  
Charlene Russell-Tucker, Acting Commissioner of Education  
Kelli Vallieres, Executive Director, Office of Workforce Strategy & Vice Chair, Governor's Workforce Council  
Mark Argosh, Chair, Governor's Workforce Council