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Legislative District 5
Carroll County

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Ways and Means Committee

Education Subcommittee

Finance Resources Subcommittee

The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

<u>Support House Bill 1195</u>

County Boards of Education– Computer Science Courses

<u>House Ways and Means Committee</u>

Chair Kaiser, Vice Chair Washington and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce HB 1195 titled "County Boards of Education – Computer Science Courses."

This bill will require county boards of education to submit a report annually to the Maryland State Board of Education and the Maryland General Assembly that will provide data on the computer science courses being offered and which students are taking them. The specific data to be reported includes:

- Total number, substance and advanced placement status of computer science courses offered in each public school in the county;
- Number and percentage of students enrolled in each computer science course disaggregated by key metrics including grade, gender, race/ethnicity and special education status, etc.;
- The number, gender and educational attainment of computer science instructors at each school

According to Code.org there are currently 633,501 open computing jobs nationwide. We have heard testimony several times this year there are anywhere between 15 – 20,000 open computing jobs in Maryland. These jobs are high paying, well over double the average annual salary of other positions. There is a gender gap in this field. Women make up a quarter of tech workers.

There are studies from companies such as Microsoft and Intel that show 47 percent of girls in middle and high school express an interest in computer science fields, but only 23 percent actually take a computer science class.

The ACCESS Act we passed was a great step toward addressing the goal of providing opportunities to our students in this field. However, currently, we do not see any sub data on which students are taking these classes. This bill will provide important data so that we can ensure all of our students are getting access to these classes and identify any gaps so that we can improve participation by all of our students.

We live in a technology driven society. Almost every aspect of our personal and professional lives require computer skills. Exposing our children to computer science and programming will provide them with options and exciting career paths that will equip them for success.

I have worked as a technical recruiter for almost 11 years. It goes without question that the hardest positions to fill are in those in the computer science and programming arena. The average salary for these positions can range from the mid 60's, at the entry level, up to $125,000 or more at the senior level in the defense sector. Those numbers have been trending higher in the commercial sector. It is important to be sure that all of our students are provided the option of getting access to these classes.

I recommend you explore the following links to learn more about this subject:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vTIZJaNtmPRBNb7_ZFHBxsGwyZqBSdpJN0iJ_pOgF-K-MNYikEeKTTj49ezDkMFRb1C_1w45gSrkcq6/pub

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YtTVcpQXoZz0IchihwGOihaCNeqCz2HyLwaXYpyb2SQ/pubhtml#

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter, and again I ask for a **FAVORABLE** report on **HB 1195**.

Respectfully,

Delegate April Rose