

GARY SIMMONS  
Legislative District 12B  
Anne Arundel County

Judiciary Committee

Subcommittees

Criminal Law and Procedure

Family and Juvenile Law



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

March 5, 2024

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

RE: Strong Support for SB980 - Enhancing Computer Science Education in Public Schools

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB980, which advocates for improving computer science education in public schools across our state. As a concerned citizen deeply invested in our students' future and our workforce's competitiveness, SB980 is a crucial step towards equipping our youth with essential skills for the 21st century.

The provision within SB980 that mandates public high schools to actively promote and increase the enrollment of students in computer science courses is a commendable initiative. By encouraging inclusivity and breaking down barriers to entry, we can ensure that students from diverse backgrounds and communities have equal opportunities to explore and benefit from the vast potential of computer science education.

The call for the State Board of Education to update computer science content standards is particularly timely and essential. Our educational curriculum must evolve accordingly in an era of technological advancements rapidly transforming our society. By incorporating the latest information and industry-relevant content, our students will be better prepared to navigate the challenges and opportunities the digital landscape presents.

Furthermore, the mandate for county boards of education to provide developmentally appropriate computer science instruction in public elementary and middle schools is a forward-thinking approach. Early exposure to computer science concepts will cultivate a foundational understanding and ignite curiosity and interest among young minds. This proactive approach aligns with the broader goal of fostering a generation of digitally literate individuals capable of contributing meaningfully to an increasingly technology-driven world.

I urge you to support and advocate for the passage of SB980, recognizing its potential to shape a more technologically literate and competitive generation of students. By equipping students with comprehensive computer science education, we are investing in the future workforce and ensuring that our state remains competitive globally. I appreciate your dedication to advancing education in our state and I trust that you will consider the long-term benefits this bill will bring our students and our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Simmons", written over a horizontal line.

Delegate Gary Simmons