

Sample “Dear Member of Congress” letter

A sample “Dear Member of Congress” letter asks Members to support the Computer Science Education Act and its inclusion in ESEA reauthorization

[DATE]

The Honorable [NAME]
US House of Representatives/US Senate
Washington, DC 20515/20510

Dear Representative/Senator [NAME]:

I urge you to **cosponsor the Computer Science Education Act**. This critical legislation seeks to ensure that computer science is a fundamental part of K-12 education.

Computing is creating entire new fields of commerce, transforming the research ecosystem and driving economic growth. The technologies behind these changes are born of the vibrant field of computer science. This field holds tremendous promise for countless endeavors, but current federal, state and local policies undercut access to computer science courses and curriculum in K-12 classrooms.

Paradoxically, as the role and significance of computing in society and the economy grows, the teaching of computer science in the country’s K-12 schools is fading. Nationwide, the number of high school introductory computer science courses has decreased by 17 percent since 2005, and the number of Advanced Placement Computer Science Courses has decreased by 33 percent. The Computer Science Education Act is needed to catalyze reform in the states. The bill would support state efforts to assess and strengthen K-12 computer science offerings, the development and implementation of computer science standards, curriculum and assessments, and address the long-neglected professional development and teacher certification programs computer science educators face.

Regardless of a student’s ultimate field of study or occupation, no other subject will open as many doors in the 21st Century as computer science. Computing is driving job growth and new scientific discovery, and it is unacceptable that roughly two-thirds of the country has no computer science standards for secondary school education, that K-8 computer science standards are deeply confused, that few states count computer science as a core academic subject for graduation, and that computer science teacher certification is deeply flawed. These are national failings that we can ill afford in this digital age. Congress must support the Computer Science Education Act.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at [PHONE] or [EMAIL] if you or your staff have any questions. Thank you for considering my request, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
[NAME]