Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2016

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Congress
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Congress
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Culberson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Room H-310, The Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael M. Honda
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
1713 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members:

As you work to develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, and FY2017 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we write to respectfully request robust funding for the following programs to support President Obama's Computer Science for All (CSA) initiative.

Providing all students from preschool through high school access to computer science instruction is a critical step to preparing them for jobs in the 21st century global economy. The President's FY2017 budget requests robust funding for CSA, an initiative that aims to use new and existing programs to equip all students with critical computational thinking skills. CSA is an inter-agency effort between the Department of Education, National Science Foundation, and other agencies to ensure that America's students are equipped with critical skills needed to succeed in the world economy.

According to the Level Playing Field Institute, it is estimated that there will be 1.4 million new tech jobs by 2020; however, seventy percent of those jobs will be unfulfilled at the rate American universities are producing qualified graduates for these roles. Approximately just one quarter of all the K-12 schools in the United States offer high-quality computer science

instruction that includes programming and coding. It is no surprise then that in 2013, the United States slipped to tenth place among Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) nations in overall research and development as a percentage of GDP. [1] CSA is critical to supporting education in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields to ensure that our nation continues to lead in innovation.

CSA's focus on girls and students of color is particularly important at a time when only fifteen percent of high school students enrolled in advanced computer science courses are girls. Furthermore, less than eight percent of students enrolled are African American or Latino. These trends continue to college where seventy percent of African American Computer Science (CS) degree earners are male and eighty-one percent of Latino CS degree earners are male. Given these statistics, robust funding for initiatives like CSA is critical. **This is why we respectfully request $100 million in FY2017 for Computer Science for All Development Grants, which will help build on current efforts to prepare students for careers in a 21st century economy.**

Recognizing that students can only be prepared if their teachers are, **we also request full funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service's (CNCS) National Service Trust.** The National Service Trust provides awards for AmeriCorps Members who successfully complete their terms of service to either repay student loans or fund future education expenses. CNCS, in partnership with the National Science Foundation (NSF) will help teachers learn the computer science fundamentals they need in order to provide quality CS instruction to students.

Further, we also request full funding for the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Research and Related Activities (R&RA) and Education and Human Resources Directorate (EHR). This will build on ongoing efforts to enable rigorous computer science education in schools across the nation. Funds will support the development and assessment of prototype instructional materials, scalable and sustainable professional development models, approaches to preservice preparation for computer science teachers, and teacher resources. Full funding for both the National Science Foundation's R&RA and EHR accounts will help facilitate research into effective approaches to the teaching and learning of computer science across grades Pre K-12.

In order to lead the world in innovation, we must make an investment in our children's education now by funding initiatives like Computer Science for All.

We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

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[1] This is the latest year that OECD has complete data for most countries.
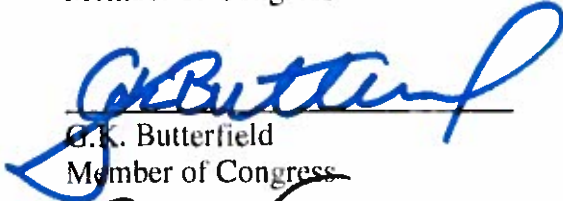
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
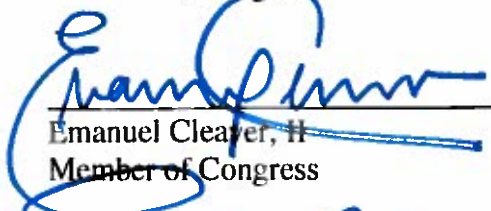Member of Congress

G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

André Carson
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke
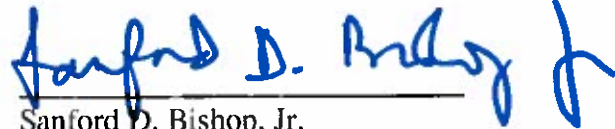Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

Karen Bass
Member of Congress

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
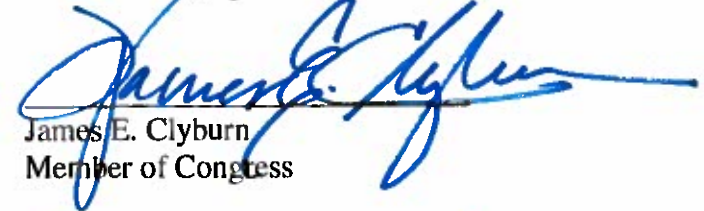Member of Congress

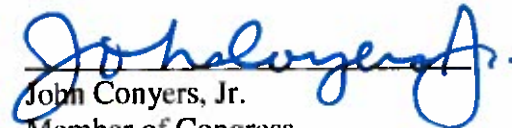Corrine Brown
Member of Congress

Lois Capps
Member of Congress

Katherine Clark
Member of Congress

Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress

John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress

Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

Al Green
Member of Congress

Rubén Hinojosa
Member of Congress

Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

David Loebsack
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee
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Eddie Bernice Johnson
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Robin L. Kelly
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John Lewis
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Zoe Lofgren
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Alan Lowenthal
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Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney
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Gregory W. Meeks
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Gwen Moore
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Grace F. Napolitano
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Bill Pascrell, Jr.
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Donald M. Payne, Jr.
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Scott Peters
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Stacey E. Plaskett
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Charles B. Rangel
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Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress

C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress
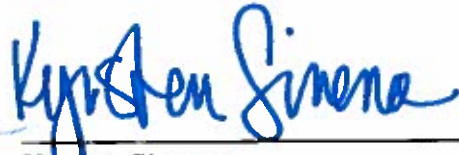
Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress
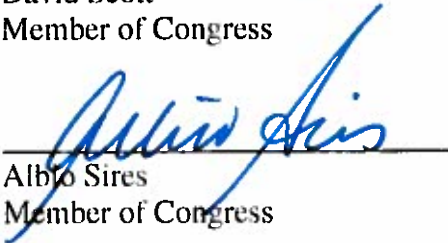
Loretta Sanchez
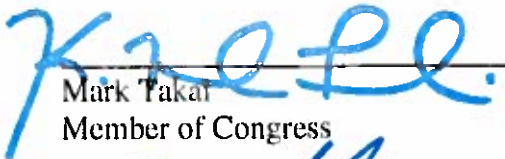Member of Congress

David Scott
Member of Congress

Kyrsten Sinema
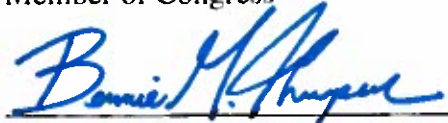Member of Congress

Albio Sires
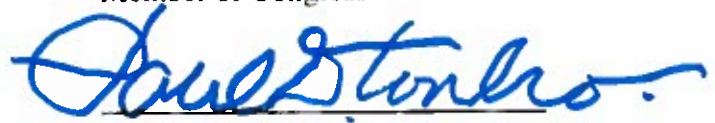Member of Congress

Adam Smith
Member of Congress

Mark Takai
Member of Congress

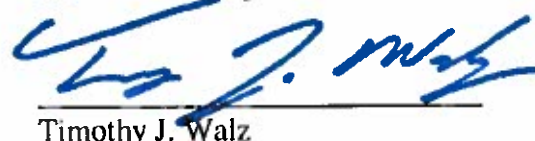Mark Takano
Member of Congress

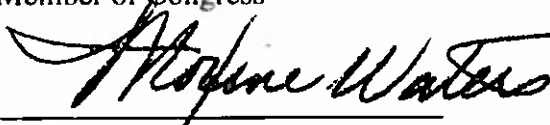Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress

Paul Tonko
Member of Congress

Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

Timothy J. Walz
Member of Congress

Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

Peter Welch
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