

February 7, 2022

Letter in Support of Senate Bill 1590

I want to express my support for Senate Bill 1590. As a software entrepreneur and supporter of computer science education, I can say this kind of legislation and recognition of our industry's needs is LONG OVERDUE. I started a software company in 1980 and grew it to 75 people. We always struggled to find and train qualified people for our development team. All of our software developers were educated out of state and chose to live in Oregon. I have personally been active with the, then Software Association of Oregon (SAO) now the Technology Association of Oregon (TAO), TechStart, the Oregon Computer Science Teachers Association (OCSTA) and other TechEd groups focused on our K-12 schools. All of these non-profit groups work hard to promote and expand TechEd and Computer Science, but they need public support. The statistics around computer science education in our schools is a very sad reminder that we are failing.

If we want Oregon to step up and flourish in the technology future of the world, the time is right, we MUST ACT NOW.

Do the right thing and pass this legislation, you can do it.

John Tortorici