

For the record my name is Don Domes from Hillsboro, Oregon. I have been a technology teacher in the classroom for over 35 years and was named a Technology Champion in 2019 by the Technology Association of Oregon.

I want to thank Senator Sollman for bringing this bill forward and for her long term support of those of us who teach technology related subjects.

Oregon's economy has a significant Technology Sector. There are tons of jobs available if our students are prepared. The importance of computer science has been brought to the forefront in this pandemic as even this hearing has moved to remote access via software. Oregon schools have no computer science requirement. The Oregon Computer Science Teachers Association (OCSTA) has been raising the flag of concern about getting more K-12 students exposed to this discipline for over 30 years. In the 2016 and 2018 Legislative sessions grants were developed that ultimately empowered OCSTA to provide teacher development training for one and three day summer classes for around 500 teachers annually! These classes were taught by teachers who have great programs for K-12 students. They also put on spring and fall one day conferences and supported school districts, ESD's, and STEM hubs with specialized local training called Pop Ups. Teachers teaching Teachers is the most effective approach to training. That work helped, but the grant money ran out. More computer science is being taught after those grants, but a lot more needs to be done. The statistics from a few years ago showed that Oregon only graduates from Oregon colleges 20% of the CS majors needed to fill the CS jobs available in Oregon! The Oregon economy is being constrained by the lack of students pursuing Computer Science training. We need a forward looking plan. Please support this legislation. Thank You.