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The Honorable Senator Sollman  
Oregon State Senate  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Support for OR SB 541 – Expanding Computer Science Education

Dear Senator Sollman,

I am writing to express my strong support for OR SB 541, which seeks to expand computer science education in Oregon schools. As a high school teacher in a rural community, where 100% of our students qualify for free and reduced-price lunches, I have witnessed how foundational computer science education not only opens doors to future careers but also strengthens students' problem-solving skills, resilience, and confidence- skills that translate into greater success across all subjects, from math to language arts.

For students facing economic hardship, computer science is more than just another subject, it's a pathway to opportunity. It builds critical thinking, problem-solving, and digital literacy skills that open doors to high-demand careers and economic mobility. But its impact goes beyond job prospects. Many of my students have limited exposure to technology outside of school, leaving them vulnerable to falling behind, not just in the job market, but in their ability to navigate a world flooded with misinformation. Teaching them how technology works, how data is created, manipulated, and shared, empowers them to be savvy digital consumers and ethical creators, strengthening their success in school and beyond.

Beyond career prospects, computer science education cultivates problem-solving skills, critical thinking, and creativity-abilities that benefit all students, regardless of their future profession. Moreover, integrating computer science into K-12 education helps rural students stay competitive with their urban peers, closing gaps in access and equity.

By passing OR SB 541, Oregon can ensure that all students, regardless of zip code or socioeconomic status, have the tools they need to succeed in a digital economy. I urge you to support this bill and advocate for the necessary resources to make computer science education accessible to every student in our state.

Thank you for your time and dedication to Oregon's students. I would be happy to provide further insight into how this bill would impact rural schools like mine.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Tuttle  
Exploring CS Regional Specialist  
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