



February 6, 2025

Re: Senate Bill 541

Chairman Frederick & Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

Code.org strongly supports Senate Bill 541. This legislation will expand access to K-12 computer science for all students in Oregon. The rapid pace of technological advancement, particularly the widespread integration of generative artificial intelligence (AI), underscores the urgent need for foundational computer science education. In a world where technology drives nearly every industry, students must be equipped not only to use technology but also to understand and create it. Computing occupations are the fastest-growing, highest-paying, and now represent the largest share of new wages in the United States. In Oregon, the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates over **7,000 open computing jobs, with an average salary of \$109,325**. Every student deserves access to the skills necessary to thrive in the 21st-century economy.

Unfortunately, only [60% of Oregon public high schools](#) offer at least one foundational computer science course, and just 7% of high school students were enrolled in one last year. More than half of U.S. states offer computer science in a greater percentage of schools than Oregon.

There is strong support for computer science education from both the business community and state leadership. 7 CEOs of Oregon-based companies have signed the [Computer Science: Opportunity for Every Student \(CEOsForCS\)](#) letter, calling for “every student in every school to have the opportunity to learn computer science.” In May 2022, former Governor Kate Brown issued an executive order to create a [statewide implementation plan](#) to expand computer science education. Code.org worked closely with the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to support the development of this plan, which outlines key strategies and recommendations. The first two recommendations call for all elementary and secondary schools to offer computer science opportunities—precisely what SB 541 seeks to accomplish.

Thirty-three states have passed legislation similar to SB 541, and 11 have gone even further by requiring all students to take a computer science course. Additionally, SB 541 includes critical funding to support schools in expanding computer science education, a step already taken by 40 other states.

Thank you for your leadership in ensuring Oregon students have the opportunities they need to succeed beyond K-12. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can be of further assistance as you consider this legislation.

Sincerely,

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