



February 12, 2020

Dear Chair Doherty and Members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Technology Association of Oregon to respectfully urge your support for House Bill 4098.

Representing nearly 500 companies, the Technology Association of Oregon unites the region's technology industry and is a recognized leader in shaping and growing technology and business communities.

Technology helps us access information, exchange ideas, connect with our loved ones and build a more connected community. The emphasis of STEM education in Oregon schools is pressing now more than ever. Career and economic opportunities within computer science are rapidly growing and the pay is typically much higher than occupations with similar education levels. This equity-focused computer science education bill is an important piece of legislation for the future workforce of Oregon and to help enrich the K-12 curriculum.

Students of color, women, rural and low-income students are being left behind in computer science and the tech industry. Oregon is one of only five states nationwide that has no established statewide education policies that encourage or support students to learn computer science. Schools and educators recognize the importance of opening doors to develop student's personal growth and their competitiveness on a regional and global level.

HB 4098 will develop the strategic plan the state needs in computer science. HB 4098 focuses on equity and inclusion to increase students' access to computer science and opportunities that they otherwise wouldn't have. TAO supports HB 4098 as it will increase the quality of the tech talent pipeline in Oregon as well as strengthen and improve the culture of our tech organizations, so they are more inclusive, diverse and equitable.

I urge your support in the passing of HB 4098. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Warren 'Skip' Newberry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Warren" and the nickname "'Skip'" clearly legible.

Warren "Skip" Newberry  
President & CEO  
Technology Association of Oregon