

Submitter: Randy Macdonald
On Behalf Of: Oregon Computer Science Teachers Association
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1590

I have been a classroom teacher for the last 4 years and involved in extracurricular computer science education for the last 10 years. Prior to my work as a computer science educator, I worked as an academic researcher in the area of computational biology. My computer science education has been almost entirely self-directed and entirely post-graduate. I would have loved to have had the opportunity to learn computer science much earlier in my educational history, but it was not available when I was in public school. Sadly, computer science education is still not available, in any form, to the majority of Oregon's public school students. I also serve on the board of the Oregon Computer Science Teachers Association and according to recent data we have helped to collect; 63/312 (20%) of Oregon Public High Schools schools have no computing classes, 97/312 (31%) have some computing, but no programming classes and 152/312 (49%) have at least one programming class. Given the increasing employment needs and opportunities in the computing sciences, I believe it is imperative that we as a state, provide better support for computer science education in our public schools. I enthusiastically support the aims and passage of this bill.