



Written Testimony
House Education and Career Readiness Committee
House Bill 170
Ohio School Boards Association
Buckeye Association of School Administrators
Ohio Association of School Business Officials
May 31, 2017

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Slaby, Ranking Minority Member Fedor, and members of the House Education and Career Readiness Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to express our views regarding House Bill 170, which address content standards and curriculum requirements for computer science.

Our organizations represent public school district boards of education, superintendents, treasurers/CFOs, business managers and other school business officials from around the state. Our members of course have a keen interest in the provisions proposed in House Bill 170.

We are writing to support the bill as introduced.

First of all, the adoption of the standards for computer science would remain a local option and does not represent an unfunded mandate.

Second, if a district would elect to adopt the standards, this approach would create some standardization among schools and school districts in terms of the course content. Moreover, in developing the new standards, the State Board of Education would be required to consider recommendations from computer science stakeholder groups, including teachers and representatives from higher education, industry, and Ohio and national computer science organizations.

Third, we appreciate the ability for students to substitute a computer science course for either a math or science course currently required for graduation. (However, we would note that we believe that it could not replace a life science/biology class.)

Finally, we appreciate the exemption of teachers licensed in computer information science from state law regarding "highly qualified teachers." Not providing such an exemption would place schools and school districts at a disadvantage in permitting students to substitute a computer science course for either a math or science requirement.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer our support for House Bill 170.

Respectfully submitted,



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