

Sergei Golos – Sr. Software Engineer at McKesson Corp

In Opposition to H.B. 5078

When Kurt Vonnegut envisioned robo-sourcing all the way back in 1952, his book was labeled science fiction. But “Player Piano”, which tackled this very difficult subject while still refusing to compute as vacuum tubes, is much less science fiction today. In fact, Al Gore in his latest book “The Future” puts the issue of robo-sourcing in second place. With this framing, I would like to talk about critical thinking, and the importance of this in the future job markets.

Today, simple mindless jobs are quickly becoming obsolete, just look to your local Stop & Shop for example the robotic cashiers. Burritos and burgers can be purchased from vending machines in New York. Even jobs that require skilled labor, like construction can see reduced requirements as large scale 3D printing becomes more prominent.

Where does this leave our youth? With a need to be able to do work that isn't easily automated by computers, jobs that require critical thinking. It is the number one skill we look for in new employees in the computer engineering field.

So I ask this? Why wait? From reading some of the public testimonials in favor of the bill, here are the key points:

- It is hard: a lot of work has to go into implementing a new curriculum
- It is expensive: that work needs to be paid for.

Are those really the excuses we want to give our students, when they show up in job market they aren't prepared for?