

SB 962 The Middle School Curriculum

Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleischman, and distinguished members of the Education Committee, my name is Chinma Uche, from West Hartford. I am a Math and Computer Science (CS) teacher and I am writing in support of SB 962, an Act Concerning the Middle School Curriculum. I am also the current President of the Connecticut Computer Science Teachers Association (CTCSTA, www.ctcsta.org).

CTCSTA is a membership organization of K-12 teachers, some college professors and other citizens who among other things advocate for K-12 Computer Science education for all students. This is in recognition of the ubiquitous nature of computers in our society. During our last meeting, just last Monday at Quinnipiac University, a teacher commented that the difficulty in convincing adults about giving access to all students lies in the fact that most adults think of CS the way they experienced it at school. The fact is that the tool for introducing Computer Science, which still teaches how to create technology and not only how to use it, have changed. CS has changed the way that we experience our world. The skills and knowledge that have created the mobile apps you use in your daily lives and the computer games that kids love have been used to develop great tools for bringing CS to all students. This is best experienced.

The Governor of Arkansas watched his granddaughter use some of these tools and campaigned to bring CS to all Arkansas high schools. Just yesterday, [Governor Hutchinson signed CS into law](#), making Arkansas the first state in the Union to provide access to Computer Science to all high school students.

I want to assure you that incredible tools are available that make CS accessible to all students. If you could make out some time to work with any K-12 student on a CS activity from <http://studio.code.org/> you will understand how different the tools for delivering CS are today. It will make it easy for you to join [President Obama](#), [Vice President Biden](#), [President Clinton](#) and many [other national leaders](#) in advocating for CS for all students. We can no longer allow access to CS to be for only students with [preparatory privileges](#). It is an equity issue. The tools for teaching CS allow us to address the practices in the CCSS, NGSS and many other standards in a fun, engaging and motivating way. It allows us to address many of the problems that have plagued education for a long time. Computer Science which fuels innovation in all areas of human endeavor can revolutionize the [educational experiences of all Connecticut children for the better](#). The time to act is now. We need to prepare **all** our students for the unstructured problems of the future. Please bring CS to all Connecticut K-12 students. Thank you for your time.

Chinma Uche