



State of Connecticut
SENATE

SENATOR KEVIN D. WITKOS
EIGHTH DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
300 CAPITOL AVENUE, SUITE 3400
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER
PRO TEMPORE

Capitol: (860) 240-8800
Toll Free: (800) 842-1421
E-mail: Kevin.Witkos@cga.ct.gov
Website: www.SenatorWitkos.com

Raised Bill No. 957

Written testimony of Senator Kevin Witkos, 8th District
Education Committee
March 6, 2019

Dear Chairman McCrory, Chairman Sanchez, Ranking Member Berthel, Ranking Member McCarty and members of the Education Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony regarding Senate Bill 957 *An Act Concerning the Inclusion of Computer Science Instruction in the Public School Curriculum, Programs of Teacher Preparation and In-Service Training Programs for Teachers*.

I write in support of this proposal and of the efforts to grow and expand computer science education in our schools. At a time when career opportunities in the computer science field go unfilled for lack of a skilled workforce, it is vital that we take common sense steps to promote computer science in our schools, and ensure that our educators have the proper training to successfully prepare our students.

As the number of technology based businesses in our state continue to grow, so too will the opportunity for job growth. It is important that we are aware of these trends and proactively work to ensure that our curriculum matches the needs of our economy.

I would also like to respectfully encourage the committee to consider amending this proposal to require the implementation of a state-wide plan for computer science instruction for grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, on or before January 1, 2010; and that a credit earned for a computer science class be counted towards a core graduation requirement. By ensuring that basic computer science concepts are taught to all students in elementary and middle school, and that electives are available in high schools, we can be sure that our younger generations have the tools necessary for a successful future.

Your consideration and support of this proposal is appreciated and I welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you further.

Sincerely,

Kevin D. Witkos
State Senator – 8th District