March 11, 2019

Rep. Robert Sanchez, Chair
Sen. Douglas McCrory, Chair
Joint Committee on Education
Connecticut State Legislature
Legislative Office Building, Room 3100
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: SB 957 - Computer Science Instruction

Dear Chairs Sanchez and McCrory:

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of over 80 technology companies that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating a targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50 state level. TechNet’s diverse membership includes dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents more than three million employees in the fields of information technology, e-commerce, clean energy, gig and sharing economy, venture capital, and finance. TechNet is committed to advancing the public policies and private sector initiatives that make the U.S. the most innovative country in the world.

TechNet respectfully submits comments in support of SB 957, which includes computer science instruction in the public school curriculum, programs of teacher preparation and in-service training programs for teachers. Computer science is a foundational skill for 21st century jobs and impacts almost every industry in the United States — manufacturing, financial services, cybersecurity, health care, law, construction, tech, and beyond. This legislation is an important step in ensuring our students are prepared to succeed in the digital age.

Computer science builds students’ computational, critical thinking, and deeper learning skills, which enables them to understand and create, and not simply use, the next generation of technological tools. Further, computer science is transforming industry, bolstering productivity in established economic sectors, and driving job creation and innovation. TechNet believes education holds the key to preparing the next generation learner to thrive and succeed in the digital marketplace and the world.
As such, TechNet respectfully supports SB 957. Thank you in advance for your consideration on these matters. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/

Christina Fisher
Executive Director, Northeast
TechNet

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