



Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Inc.

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**Testimony
submitted to the
Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee**

**SB 1129 AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE
COMPUTER SCIENCE AND TECHNICAL TALENT IN EDUCATION**

The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) has concerns that creating a new endorsement in computer science will take some time to establish and two years would not suffice for even the teacher preparation candidates in the pipeline now to comply with the specific mandate of computer science by July 1, 2021 for every school district. While the goal is laudable there isn't the expectation that enough employees currently in private industry might contemplate a career change to sufficiently help to meet the demand.

Creating an adjunct who must meet certain criteria – one of which is a subject area assessment, that would also have to be created- might be too heavily relied on to fill a position that a currently certified teacher could fulfill should they seek this new endorsement. Allowing industry professionals to teach while in teachers prep or alternative route programs could put a person in a classroom with no classroom management skills.

The state struggles to recruit enough teacher candidates. Currently, Connecticut does not graduate enough teacher to keep up with the demand in the state. Connecticut's certification process is a rigorous and we know the state Department of Education is understaffed.

We urge the committee to consider the complexity of a new endorsement at the state and local levels.