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FINANCE COMMITTEE

House Bill No. 1033

“An Act Concerning the Inclusion of Computer Science and Financial Literacy as Part of the High School Graduation Requirements”

Written testimony of Senator Kevin Witkos, 8<sup>th</sup> District  
Education Committee  
March 17, 2020

Co-Chairs Senator McCrory and Representative Sanchez, Ranking Member Representative McCarty and Senator Berthel, and other distinguished members of the Education Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of House Bill No. 1033 ***An Act Concerning the Inclusion of Computer Science and Financial Literacy as Part of the High School Graduation Requirements***

Over the past several years we have made great strides in recognizing the importance of computer science in our local, state, and national economies. A wide range of industries and career fields incorporate computer science to some degree, and it is critical that we ensure our students are introduced to this field at the K-12 level.

While many schools have already incorporated STEM into their curriculum, it is also important to recognize that Computer Science is indeed considered part of this realm and should be synonymous with science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. [Code.org](#) reports that computing jobs are the #1 source of new wages in the US with approximately 400,000 current openings nationwide. These jobs are projected to grow at twice the rate of all other jobs. Introducing our students to this growing field is a positive step and should be supported by the committee.

I am also grateful to the Education Committee for their inclusion of financial literacy as a requirement for graduation. These are critical life skills that impact every person and incorporating this curriculum as a graduation requirement will help prepare them for a successful future. According to the Council for Economic Education [2020 Survey of the States](#), only 21 states now require high school students to take a course in personal finance. It is time that Connecticut join with these other states and fully prepare our students for their future.

I thank you for your time and attention to these issues and welcome any feedback you may have.

Sincerely,

Kevin D. Witkos  
State Senator – 8<sup>th</sup> District