February 23, 2015

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman
Committee on Science, Space and Technology
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
Transmitted via email to Kirsten.Duncan@mail.house.gov

Dear Chairman Smith:

Thank you for your efforts to support expanded access to K-12 computer science education, as exemplified by the introduction of the *STEM Education Act of 2015* (HR 1020).
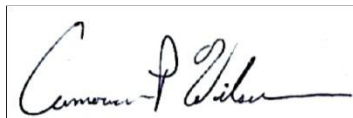
The proposal would explicitly include "computer science" in STEM education activities at the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the Environmental Protection Agency. It would also clarify that computer science teachers are eligible for the benefits provided under the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program. These are small but important steps in recognizing the importance of K-12 computer science education.

Almost every job—medicine, law, business, banking and local, state and federal government—increasingly requires familiarity with computer science. A 21st-century doctor, lawyer, banker, governor or Capitol Hill staffer may not need to know how to write complex code, but they need to understand the basic inner workings of an app, a website, software security and other technology.

Since December, over 100 million students have tried their hand at computer science via Code.org's second "Hour of Code" campaign. We are working hard to meet the demand this campaign uncovered, but policy changes will help.   Code.org believes this bill and changes to the *America COMPETES Act* will strengthen K-12 computer science education and better serve the needs of industry and the research enterprise, while giving young people the boundless opportunities computer science knowledge and skills offer.

As you and your staff continue to work on this important matter, please do not hesitate to contact Cameron Wilson at Cameron@code.org or Della Cronin at Della.Cronin@code.org with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Cameron Wilson
COO
Code.org

cc: Members of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology