



September 1, 2016

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor of the State of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT AB 2329 (Bonilla) Computer Science for All

Dear Governor Brown,

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, representing over 2,500 San Francisco businesses, is pleased to support AB 2329 – Computer Science for All.

The digital age has transformed how people work and live, making computer science and the technologies it enables central to our daily lives. By 2020, an estimated 4.6 million computer-related jobs will be available for those with skills in computer science -jobs that will address such issues as climate change, healthcare provision, and economic development. Unfortunately, many educational institutions in the United States have not been able to keep pace with technological advances, leaving students without fundamental computer science skills. Of the more than 42,000 high schools in the United States, fewer than 3,250 were certified to teach advanced-placement computer science courses in 2013. Only 1% of California high school students in the 20 largest school districts are enrolled in any computer course.

In 2015, the San Francisco Chamber Foundation launched UniteSF, an initiative focused on bringing together business, education, government and non-profit leadership around issues impacting education. One of UniteSF's signature projects is the STEM Talent Pathway, focusing on addressing the gap between skilled STEM and computer science graduates and the growing job opportunities within the STEM field.

As a hub of technology and innovation San Francisco is at the forefront of a new economy, one that calls for a qualified workforce ready to meet the needs of today's leading tech companies. The San Francisco Chamber believes that the economic future of the state of California is intrinsically linked to the future of computer science education. We are therefore pleased to support AB 2329.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Lazarus", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jim Lazarus
Senior Vice President of Public Policy