

Subject: Support for HF3492 - Ensuring Accessible Computer Science Education for All

I am writing as a parent with a child attending Countryside Spanish Dual Language in Edina (as well as a STEM teacher educator) to express my strong support for HF3492, a crucial piece of legislation aimed at broadening the scope of computer science (CS) education to include every student in MN. I know Edina Public Schools has a commitment to fostering an inclusive educational environment that aligns with the goals of HF3492, recognizing the transformative impact that accessible CS education can have on individuals and society as a whole.

In an era where technology plays a pivotal role in every aspect of our lives, it is essential that we ensure all students, regardless of their background or learning needs, are equipped with foundational computing skills. The importance of such education extends beyond traditional career pathways in technology, preparing students for a variety of roles in a digitally driven world and enhancing their problem-solving and critical thinking capabilities.

My experience as an educator and a teacher educator has shown that when students, including those with unique needs, are provided with engaging and accessible CS learning opportunities, their enthusiasm for STEM fields is markedly increased. Research has shown that CS education has an impact when girls and students of color are exposed early and to culturally responsive computing curriculum. When we connect the concepts to students lives, that leads to learning!

The passage of HF3492 is essential for removing barriers to CS education and ensuring that every student has the chance to participate in this vital area of learning. This legislation not only supports the development of a diverse and technologically proficient workforce but also acknowledges the unique contributions that students of all abilities can bring to the field of computer science. Now, more than ever, we need diversity in the field of CS, especially around generative AI.

I urge you to lend your support to HF3492, thereby affirming our collective commitment to an educational framework that values diversity, equity, and inclusion. By endorsing this bill, you will be taking a significant step towards preparing all students in MN for a successful future in a technology-rich world.

Thank you for considering this important issue. I am hopeful for your support of HF3492 and look forward to the positive impact it will undoubtedly have on our educational system and the broader community.

Sincerely,

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