



July 30, 2019

The Honorable Derek Kilmer  
United States House of Representatives  
1410 House Longworth Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Kilmer,

On behalf of the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), I write in support of the *Teacher Education for Computer Science Act* (H.R. 3808, the “Teach CS Act”) introduced on July 17, 2019. For over five decades, CGS has served as the national organization dedicated to advancing graduate education and research. Our membership includes nearly 500 institutions of higher education in the United States, Canada, and abroad. Collectively, our members grant 87 percent of all U.S. doctorates and the majority of U.S. master’s degrees. CGS is committed to ensuring that graduate education provides a pathway to careers that meet the demands of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century workforce.

Occupations requiring a master’s or doctoral degree at entry level are among the fastest growing professions over the next decade.<sup>1</sup> These include both computer science educators and computer and information research scientists. To fill these positions, meet the demands of the economy, and keep the U.S. globally competitive, federal support for graduate institutions to advance the training of qualified individuals is critical. H.R. 3808 would address this by creating funding streams through the *Higher Education Act* aimed at improving preparation and increasing the number of computer science teachers.

Furthermore, the legislation would establish a competitive 5-year grant for graduate schools to launch “Centers of Excellence” which would run computer science teacher education programs. Requiring matching funds through public-private and state-federal partnerships would also give states and the private sector an added level of buy-in. This funding will allow institutions to conduct research, improve their programs, prepare more master’s and doctoral students, as well as potentially provide further entry into these fields for low-income and underrepresented students.

Again, we thank you and your colleagues for your commitment to furthering U.S. education, which includes the training of educators, many of whom are graduate-prepared. If you have further questions please contact our Vice President of Public Policy and Government Affairs, Lauren Inouye, at [Linouye@cgs.nche.edu](mailto:Linouye@cgs.nche.edu) or (202)-461-3864.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Suzanne T. Ortega'.

Suzanne T. Ortega  
President

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2018). Occupational outlook handbook. Retrieved from: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>.

CC: The Honorable Tom Reed  
The Honorable Tony Cardenas  
The Honorable Anthony Gonzalez  
The Honorable Tim Ryan  
The Honorable Denver Riggleman  
The Honorable Joseph Morelle  
The Honorable Ann Kuster  
The Honorable Sean Casten