June 16, 2016

The Honorable Carol Liu
Chair, Senate Committee on Education
State Capitol, Room 5097
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Senator Liu,

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, a collective impact 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. We recognize that the success of our future workforce is dependent on ensuring that today's students are learning the skills of tomorrow.

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 some of today's leading tech companies. The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce believes that the economic future of the state of California is intrinsically linked to the future of computer science education. To expand access to computer science education is to expand economic opportunity for the next generation. We are therefore pleased to support AB 2275.

Sincerely,

Jim Lazarus
Sr. VP of Public Policy
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce