



**Proponent Testimony on HB 5649**  
**Michigan House Education Committee**  
Amy Lore, Senior Director of Government Relations  
Project Lead The Way  
May 14, 2024

**Chair Koleszar and Committee Members:**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 5649.

My name is Amy Lore, and I represent Project Lead The Way (PLTW), a 25-year-old company with a singular focus on preparing PreK-12 students for success in an unknown future. We provide hands-on, project-based learning in **engineering, biomedical science, and computer science.**

PLTW stands as a staunch supporter and a ready partner in the effort to equip our teachers and students with the computer science skills they need to succeed, and we thank the authors of HB 5649 as well as the Department of Education for their ongoing focus on computer science education and student success.

Nothing is more critical to student success – in computer science or any subject – than quality teaching. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the investment Michigan has made, and will hopefully continue to make, in teacher training. That leadership is critical to this new effort to expand access to computer science classes to every Michigan high school.

PLTW is continually training teachers to provide world-class instruction in computational thinking from preschool to in-depth courses in high school.

Our computer science students learn by doing, engaging in real world activities like building digital animations, designing mobile apps for clients, and using automation to process and analyze DNA-sequence data while they navigate the risks of cybersecurity and ethical behavior.

These activities build computer science skills and help students develop confidence.

PLTW is passionate about computer science because we understand that our workforce is moving increasingly toward credentialed professional and technical occupations. We continue to track high growth in health care and information technology, and the trend toward automation and AI indicates the urgency of building computer science skills for everyone.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://cte.careertech.org/sites/default/files/files/resources/AdvanceCTE\\_NewSkills\\_Brief\\_LMI\\_COVID19.pdf](https://cte.careertech.org/sites/default/files/files/resources/AdvanceCTE_NewSkills_Brief_LMI_COVID19.pdf)

**Empowering students to thrive in an evolving world.**

# PLTW

Michigan needs workers who have technical knowledge but also have problem-solving skills, who think critically and creatively, who communicate and collaborate with others, and who persevere when something does not work the first time. This is where PLTW excels.

We must be intentional in helping students develop in demand, transportable skills by embedding high-quality computer science education throughout their PreK-12 experience. Creating the opportunity for computer science in every Michigan high school is a huge leap forward in that effort.

Our graduates need options and opportunities. Supporting the computer science education access in HB 5649 is an important way to secure both.

Thank you for your service to our state and for your support of Michigan students and teachers.

Sincerely,

Amy Lore  
Senior Director of Government Relations  
Project Lead The Way, Inc.

**Empowering students to thrive in an evolving world.**