



June 8, 2026

TO: Members, Senate Education Committee

SUBJECT: AB 2298 (IRWIN) PUPIL INSTRUCTION: COMPUTER SCIENCE: CONTENT STANDARDS AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS SUPPORT – AS AMENDED MARCH 19, 2026 SCHEDULED FOR HEARING – JUNE 17, 2026

The California Chamber of Commerce and the undersigned are pleased to **SUPPORT AB 2298 (Irwin)** as amended March 19, 2026, which would take another crucial step forward for fostering a digitally-literate and secure population and future workforce by effectively encouraging the incorporation of cybersecurity skills being taught in our schools the next time computer science skills content standards are revised – something that is frankly long overdue. For these purposes, “cybersecurity skills” means techniques to protect information and devices by preventing, detecting, and responding to attacks by threat actors. It is time to recognize that we cannot have secure privacy, AI literacy, digital literacy without such cyber literacy. For workers, consumers, businesses, government, and everyone in between to withstand the fast moving and rapidly evolving cyber threats of today, this foundational knowledge has to start early—in childhood.

California’s economy is one of the most powerful in the world—now ranked fourth-largest globally, with a gross domestic product exceeding \$4 trillion. Despite this economic strength, cybersecurity workforce development remains a significant challenge both within the state and nationwide. Analyses highlighted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), drawing on CyberSeek data, shows that the United States continues to face hundreds of thousands of unfilled cybersecurity positions, including substantial unmet demand in California. This ongoing workforce gap underscores the urgent need to expand accessible, high-quality cybersecurity education and training opportunities—not just in higher education, but from a K-12 education perspective.

That challenge is particularly urgent because humans pose the most significant vulnerability in cybersecurity, contributing to 74% of data breaches¹, with 3 out of 4 CISOs naming human error as their top cybersecurity risk in 2024². There is no silver bullet solution that lies in technology alone – no amount of firewalls, encryption, antivirus software or other tools can fully address this factor. Malicious actors increasingly exploit human behavior through social engineering attacks including phishing, deepfakes, and impersonation, often using AI and other sophisticated tools to bypass traditional defenses, creating enormous risk for businesses across California.

Cybersecurity professionals themselves face high stress and burnout, in part because of these challenges. These workers tirelessly protect IT systems, fully aware of the consequences of data breaches or other cyberattacks, often through no fault of their own. Attacks are constantly evolving and can be incredibly sophisticated; even when professionals do everything correctly, no defense is impenetrable. With humans as the greatest vulnerability, it is not enough to only provide trainings in the workplace or teach cybersecurity skills as part of vocational or higher education. We must also foster these cyber skills early in life. By equipping students with cybersecurity knowledge and practices, we can help ensure they use the internet and connected technologies safely and securely—also better protecting their personal data—as tools for learning, communication, and commerce, and carry those habits into adulthood and the workforce, hopefully even inspiring a new generation of cybersecurity professionals.

¹ [The Human Factor: Redefining Cybersecurity In The Age Of AI](#)

² [CISOs list human error as their top cybersecurity risk | IBM](#)

For these reasons, we are proud to **SUPPORT AB 2298 (Irwin)**.

Sincerely,



Ronak Daylami

Vice President for Advocacy | Privacy, Cybersecurity & Emerging Technologies
California Chamber of Commerce
on behalf of

Business Software Alliance, David London
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Computer & Communications Industry Association, Aodhan Downey
Mastercard, Megan Boland
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