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Tim Lordan, Executive Director
Internet Education Foundation
Testimony Before the House of Representatives
Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee

April 6, 2018

Chairman Kevin Yoder
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Legislative Branch Subcommittee
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Tim Ryan
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Legislative Branch Subcommittee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Yoder and Ranking Member Ryan,

I am writing on behalf of the Internet Education Foundation to request that the subcommittee consider funding the Congressional App Challenge, which is an "Officially-Sanctioned Competition" of the House of Representatives.

The Congressional App Challenge (CAC) is a competition designed to inspire students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), and in computer science, through district-wide competitions. Participating Congressional districts challenge their young constituents to program a computer app as part of the competition. The winning apps have been displayed in the U.S. Capitol Building and the winners are invited to Capitol Hill to display their apps for their Representative in Congress.

The Officially-Sanctioned Competition program was created by the Committee on House Administration by the passage of Committee Resolution 114 in October of 2015 by unanimous vote. The Congressional App Challenge was initiated at the bipartisan request of Congressman Bob Goodlatte and Congresswoman Anna G. Eshoo, co-chairs of the Congressional Internet Caucus, a congressional member organization. The CAC is sponsored, according to the rules set out by CR 114, by the Internet Education Foundation (IEF), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in Washington, DC.

The CAC has grown enormously since its creation in 2015. The 2017 contest grew by 129% over the 2016 contest. We expect even more growth. The scale of the program is outstripping the capacity to administer it. IEF provides all the materials, support, staffing, and databases needed for Member offices to host successful contests for their constituents. IEF works closely with the Committee on House Administration to execute the CAC every year.

Specifically, we ask the subcommittee to:

- ❑ Provide \$400K funding to either the Chief Administrative Officer or Committee on House Administration (CHA) so that it can administrator "Officially-Sanctioned Competitions" and the CAC specifically.

It is well documented that the nation is in critical need of workers to fill STEM and computer science jobs. The CAC is a program designed to inspire a domestic pipeline of skilled workers for the jobs of the innovation economy. Further, it treats every constituent in every Congressional district equally — assuring that every American, regardless of geography, can have a chance to find a good paying job.

Please accept this public witness testimony in support of funding for Officially-Sanctioned Competitions.

Sincerely



Tim Lordan
Executive Director
Internet Education Foundation