



December 30, 2013

The Honorable Tony Cardenas  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear. Representative Cardenas:

As a science and engineering education non-profit working with underserved families, Iridescent supports Representative Tony Cárdenas and the America Can Code Act of 2013. Iridescent creates and delivers powerful science, engineering and technology education to help underserved kids build imagination, curiosity, and persistence.

We at Iridescent believe that science and engineering education opportunities should be provided to all children. We believe that the critical thinking and problem solving skills students develop while working on science and engineering projects are essential to their success. At Iridescent, we work with the communities to bring more science and engineering learning experiences to children. Our Technovation program is the world's largest computer science program for girls and we host Youth Hackathons throughout the nation. (In 2013, we collaborated with Hack for LA to bring a Youth Hackathon to underserved communities in Los Angeles.) We believe that this new bill is definitely a step in the right direction.

Computer science and programming are essential skills for the next generation of students to succeed as a scientist or engineer. We believe that more computer science programs should be brought into the classrooms so that more students will have the opportunity to learn how to code. This bill will make computer science education an essential part of tomorrow's classroom providing more opportunities for all students to acquire this essential skill. We support Representative Tony Cárdenas's effort in this matter.

We here at Iridescent are excited to see this bill move forward in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress and look forward to seeing more policy recommendations which will give more access to computer science educations to all students in America.

Sincerely,

**Amy Hee Kim Ph.D.**

Senior Director of Family Science Programs

Iridescent

[www.iridescentlearning.org](http://www.iridescentlearning.org)