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Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ishaan Sinha, and I live in Washington County. Currently, I am a junior at Glencoe High School and a legislative intern for Representative Janeen Sollman.

In 2014, Massachusetts passed the Motor Vehicle's Owners' Right to Repair Act, compelling car manufacturers nationwide to make tools and repair information available to independent repair shops. Fast forward to today, consumer technologies are getting the same protection, with 21 states introducing Right to Repair legislation for digital devices. Right 2 Repair is the next step towards ending unfair monopolies and respecting the hard work and toil of everyday Americans.

Like many youths, I use my phone a lot - and consequently, young people end up damaging their iPhones through constant wear and tear. For example, say someone had an iPhone with a worn out battery. This person could buy a new phone or repair it. Repairing is less wasteful, but right now, if they wanted to repair their battery, they would have to go through licenced repairers, such as Genius Bar, to finally fix their battery. These licensed companies have dominated the repair market, allowing them to raise prices so high that it's more convenient to just buy a new phone and throw out the old one.

While I respect thrift from companies, if we were to give independent repair technicians the information needed to repair such consumer technologies, we'd see monumental benefit for consumers at the risk of a little more competition for businesses.

Opponents of this bill also cite security and innovation concerns from losing proprietary information. However, the Chair and Members of this Committee should know the bottom line: Similar bills may pass in 21 states, so we're not going to see any decrease in innovation from adding Oregon to the list of states supporting digital device Right 2 Repair. It would be silly to say a company like Apple would lose more proprietary information when they are already doing so in other states and even countries.

Clearly, the increased accessibility for consumers easily outweighs any overblown fears and business harms. I urge a strong support for passing this bill.

Best,  
Ishaan Sinha