

TRAVIS NELSON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
HOUSE DISTRICT 44
NORTH/NORTHEAST PORTLAND



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1596A

February 28, 2024

Chair Holvey, Vice-Chairs Elmer and Sosa and members of the House Committee on Business and Labor,

My name is Travis Nelson, serving as the Representative of District 44, encompassing North and Northeast Portland. I write to advocate in strong support of Senate Bill 1596A, a measure critical to ensuring the right of Oregonians to repair their electronic devices freely and affordably.

A personal experience illuminated the urgency of this issue for me. Recently, while replacing the battery for my iPhone, the employee shared the increasing difficulty in getting these repairs done. This was particularly striking to me, as someone who prefers to maximize the lifespan of my possessions—having owned only three iPhones over the last decade. I was surprised there was difficulty built into the phone itself in what should be a simple repair. This underscores a troubling trend toward forced obsolescence and consumer dependency on manufacturers.

Marketplace power abuse involves companies making their products hard to repair by using tactics that limits third party business from doing the work, thus limiting repair options to themselves. They often do not make repair tools, manuals, or parts available, hindering independent repair efforts. Right to Repair laws aim to counteract this by mandating manufacturers to supply diagnostic tools, information, and parts at fair prices to both users and independent repairers.

Supporting SB 1596A not only champions the right to repair for Oregonians but also carries wider advantages, including economic relief with potential savings averaging \$330 per year per family. Additionally, it aims to reduce e-waste significantly, targeting the daily disposal of 4,800 cell phones in our state which will directly promote environmental sustainability and the reduction of unnecessary waste.

The importance of the SB 1596A has also never been more apparent than in the wake of the global semiconductor chip shortage, a crisis that has starkly demonstrated the vulnerabilities in our current electronics ecosystem. This shortage highlighted the broader implications for access to technology both in our schools and to every Oregonian.

Senate Bill 1596A embodies our shared values of fairness, environmental responsibility, and economic resilience. I urge you, to support this bill and help to empower consumers, support small businesses and reduce waste for a more sustainable and equitable Oregon.

Please vote yes. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Travis Nelson".

State Representative Travis Nelson
House District 44, North/NE Portland