

February 3, 2025

Support for SB550 - Wheelchair Right to Repair - from the Digital Right to Repair Coalition

We are a non-profit created for the purpose of advancing repair-friendly legislation, regulations and standards for everything made with a digital electronic part. Our goal is to make it possible for all of us to repair everything we buy without the interference of the manufacturer.

Wheelchair users are particularly harmed by delays and costs of making necessary repairs including both mechanical and digital parts. We strongly support legislation requiring wheelchair providers to make sure that their customers, and any technicians they choose to hire, have access to all the service materials needed to make a complete repair on fair and reasonable terms.

Under all our existing laws of ownership, copyright, patent, trade secrets and antitrust - we should be able to fix our stuff without using the manufacturer. These older laws state that repair is legal, but do not deal with practical limitations created by manufacturers to prevent competition for repair services. This bill assures users that they will have the practical means to repair their purchases in exchange for a license to do business in Oregon.

Legislation to this effect for wheelchair users is now law in Colorado and California. Residents of Oregon should have the same options without having to go out of state for help.

About Repair.org

Our more than 400 member businesses and organizations are experts in electronics repair, reconfiguration, remanufacturing, reuse and recycling. We know that electronics used in wheelchairs and other assistive devices are the same electronics used in everything else from cell phones, computers, tractors and home appliances. Everything we buy should be repairable unless the OEM itself did not design equipment to be repaired by anyone.

Please pass this essential practical and enabling legislation at your earliest opportunity.

Kindest Regards,

Gay Gordon-Byrne
Executive Director - Digital Right to Repair Coalition
ggbyrne@repair.org
518-251-2837 (office) 201-747-4022 (mobile)