



Senate Committee on Energy & Environment

**Testimony in Support of SB 550**

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AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50+ to choose how they live as they age. AARP Oregon advocates on issues important to our more than 500,000 Oregon members with a focus on health security, financial resilience and livable communities.

We are pleased to support SB 550 which expands the existing right to repair law to extend to wheelchairs. Wheelchairs are essential mobility devices for many older adults, providing them with the independence and freedom to live their lives fully. However, the current restrictions on repairing these devices pose significant challenges. When wheelchair users are unable to access affordable and timely repairs, it can lead to prolonged periods of immobility, isolation, and a diminished quality of life.

This legislation will:

1. **Increase Accessibility:** By allowing more repair options, wheelchair users can get their devices fixed quickly and efficiently, reducing downtime and improving their overall well-being.
2. **Reduce Costs:** Independent repair shops often offer more affordable services compared to manufacturer-authorized repair centers. This law will help lower the financial burden on wheelchair users, many of whom are on fixed incomes.
3. **Promote Independence:** Enabling users to repair their own wheelchairs or seek help from local repair shops fosters a sense of autonomy and self-reliance.
4. **Encourage Innovation:** Open access to repair information can lead to innovative solutions and improvements in wheelchair technology, benefiting all users.

On behalf of AARP Oregon we urge a yes vote on SB 550. It's an important step towards ensuring that all Oregonians can maintain their independence and quality of life.