

Memorandum of Support for Right to Repair / Fair Repair Legislation, HB2698

February 17, 2021

The Repair Association represents the combined interests of individuals and businesses making their living repairing, refurbishing, reselling, and recycling electronic equipment. Our over 400 supporting members collectively represent roughly 15 million US consumers. The industry of repair contributes roughly 6% of GDP - and employs roughly 3 million nationally.

Over the past twenty years, manufacturers have made the legal business of repair difficult or impossible through a variety of tactics. We estimate that 90% of products on the market today with a digital electronic component are un-repairable by design or policy.

The impact on consumers, business, agriculture, education, industry, medicine and the environment is profound. Without choice of repair other than from the manufacturer, including the option of self-repair, every individual and every organization are being forced to discard products and buy new on terms and conditions they no longer control. The result is that our homes, hospitals, farms, schools and businesses are filled with electronics we can't fix—and our repair options are dwindling. Meanwhile, we have a shrinking number of technicians who can keep our electronics going. This bill will help turn this tide.

The downside for opponents is the renewed presence of competition. Competition drives fair pricing, creates incentives for excellence in service and availability, and stimulates innovations throughout the marketplace. There aren't any markets made better by monopolies, including the market for repair.

Our association and our members are excited to help support all legislative efforts and strongly support the passage of HB2698.

Sincerely,

Gay Gordon-Byrne

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