

Right to Repair Testimony

9 February 2023

Dear members of the committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Right to Repair Bill. As a student at Lane Community College and the current serving President of the Lane Student Government Association, I know how critical devices are in ensuring the academic success of students. Many of our classes are fully online or have online components, which requires that we own a computer.

Currently, if my laptop was damaged, I would be forced to pay high fees to manufacturers or authorized repair shops, which as a college student as well as an international student from a third world country, is a financial burden I may not be able to carry. Furthermore, getting my device repaired may take days or weeks to complete, which I cannot afford to lose if I want to stay on track in all my classes.

It is also critical to note that some of our students who are in need of repairs are in the lowest family income bracket and are dealing with financial stresses causing basic needs and food insecurity.

Considering the potentially high cost and long wait time, it may be easier for me to discard my damaged device and purchase a new one. Unfortunately, this contributes to E-waste, the fastest-growing waste stream in the world, and climate pollution caused by the manufacturing process for devices such as cell phones and laptops.

The Right to Repair Bill would provide all consumers with access to repair information, tools, and replacement parts, allowing them to fix their own devices and extend their lifespan. This bill would not only help students save money, but it would also promote sustainability by reducing the need for new electronics to be produced.

Overall, I strongly believe that the Right to Repair Bill is a necessary step toward creating a more sustainable, accessible, and affordable electronic repair system. I urge you to support this bill and take action to ensure that individuals have the right to repair their own devices.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nikhar Ramlakhan