

Submitter: Colby Williams
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor
Measure: SB1596

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Committee on Business and Labor. Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony regarding security and life safety concerns with Senate Bill 1596 and the right to repair consumer electronic equipment.

The Security Industry Association (SIA) is the leading trade association comprised of security solution providers, with over 1,400 innovative member companies representing thousands of safety and security leaders throughout the U.S.

We respectfully oppose SB 1596 as it currently stands. We are concerned that if SB 1596 becomes law, the safety of those who rely on electronic security and life safety systems would be compromised. This legislation would compel virtually all original equipment manufacturers to provide sensitive information and diagnostic equipment, including those essential to complex life safety and security systems which protect consumers and businesses from physical security threats and protect secure sensitive data.

Forcing manufacturers of such systems to disclose proprietary equipment and security information will expose consumers and small businesses to potential harm by allowing information necessary for disabling or circumventing these systems to make it into the public domain. Many states have rejected similarly broad right-to-repair legislation, finding that it would create more problems for consumers than it would solve. It is imperative to understand that once this information is in the public domain due to a right to repair law in one state, that the integrity of security and life safety devices is compromised nationwide and even globally as these systems are not unique to Minnesota. Such an outcome is clearly not in the public interest. It benefits no one for such information to become widely available, other than those who would seek to defeat, infiltrate, or alter such systems for criminal ends.

The adoption of this legislation without clearly excluding security and life safety devices would expose consumers of such devices to potential fraud and harm in the name of consumer protection. Such an exclusion should apply to a manufacturer, distributor, integrator or installer of security or life safety systems and equipment, including alarm systems and any other digital electronic equipment used to prevent, detect, protect against, or respond to fire or security incidents or control access to residential, commercial, and governmental property, services, or information

systems.

Thank you for considering our perspective on this complex issue. On behalf of our members, we are committed to working with you and offer our assistance as industry leaders in any way possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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