

COURTNEY NERON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 26



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Testimony in Support of SB 1596

February 27, 2024

Chair Holvey, Vice Chair Elmer, Vice Chair Sosa, and members of the House Committee on Business and Labor.

I am writing to express my strong support of SB 1596A because it is time for Oregon to pass a comprehensive Right to Repair law, and we are ready.

This bill will give people more control over the products they own. It will require manufacturing companies to make diagnostic tools, information, and replacement parts available to consumers and third-party repair shops, so Oregonians can more affordably fix products, including phones, computers, and appliances.

We increasingly rely on technology for our daily lives at work, at play, and in school. But technology is not equally accessible to all Oregonians. When COVID sent schools into virtual learning, 75,000 students did not have immediate access to a device for their schoolwork.

When our consumer electronic products break, many Oregonians cannot afford the replacement costs of a new cell phone or laptop. We are ready for affordable repair options and this bill is one pathway to closing the digital divide.

Oregon Consumer Justice, in partnership with the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center, conducted research on who supports Right to Repair legislation in Oregon and found:

- 70% of Oregonians support
- Over 82% of Oregon consumers who are 55 and over support
- 67% of Rural Oregon supports, while suburban areas support at 73-80%
- And finally, strong support spans the political spectrum. 81% of Democrats, 65% of Republicans, and 66% of Independent or non-affiliated voters support Right to Repair legislation.

There is overwhelming support for this legislation in part because Oregon consumers recognize the needlessly high cost of manufacturer-only repair and otherwise avoidable price tag on replacement.

With SB 1596A, we have the opportunity to support both our economy and our environment. Oregon's bill DOES NOT include loopholes for manufacturers, and DOES allow for parts pairing unless it is to interfere in a repair or to mislead consumers. This policy will keep devices out of landfills, remove pressure on consumers to purchase expensive new devices, and reduce planned obsolescence and toxic E-waste. The bottom line is that this is a consumer choice bill, giving Oregonians the opportunity to save money by safely replacing broken parts, and increasing the likelihood of supporting local repair businesses.

I want to thank Senator Sollman for championing this work and for polishing this bill in partnership with consumers and industry stakeholders. This bill has come a long way since it was first introduced in Oregon and now, thanks in large part to her diligence, we have a gold standard piece of policy for your consideration. It represents a vision for the future that meaningfully centers consumer safety and values.

I urge the committee to support SB 1596A. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Neron". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Representative Courtney Neron
House District 26 | Wilsonville, King City, Sherwood, Tigard