

Submitter: Tyler Stolt  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB550

In a six month period, more than half of wheelchair users will experience some sort of breakdown. They will then wait 1.5 to 6 months for a fix.

In the meantime, they might be stuck at home or stuck in a bed, leading to mental health stress and depression from isolation. Or, they might attempt to go to work, the doctors, see family, or get groceries with a broken wheelchair, leading to increased damage to their medical device and greatly increasing the chance of injury.

As the program coordinator for Oregon Spinal Cord Injury Connection's monthly wheelchair maintenance workshops, people tell me stories: Like how one person's footplate got loose and became stuck in the gap between the platform and the max train. Or how another person's caster fork bolt came loose, suddenly stopping their wheelchair and throwing them forward out of it, onto the pavement. Or how someone didn't know if the batteries in their power scooter were replaceable, meaning they never went more than a block from home in order to avoid being stranded.

Right to repair would make service manuals and tools available to the public, so that people could research how their devices work and make their own decisions about whether or not they can be repaired by themselves, or by a trusted friend or parent, or by a bicycle or automotive shop; or if the repair is severe enough to warrant a call to the professionals.

Oregon SB550 would dramatically benefit rural Oregonians and those experiencing poverty, for whom there may be no choice other than to attempt a repair in a DIY fashion. For folks with no other options, let us at least make sure that we are preparing them with the best information possible.

I urge you to vote YES and PASS this bill that would help so many Oregonians and make a material impact on people's access to reliable transportation for their daily lives.