



February 10, 2025

Memo of Support for Right to Repair in Rhode Island – H5246, H5159 and H5017

iFixit is a repair company with over 115,000 step-by-step repair guides for how to fix everything from toasters to tractors, and we sell parts and tools for consumer gadgets so that people can fix things themselves. We also sell parts and tools wholesale to independent repair shops. In the last few years, we've started helping manufacturers get original parts to their customers. We're now the official parts distributor for Google Pixel, Microsoft Xbox, and Logitech, and we have made repair guides for Patagonia and The Home Depot.

Through our business, we hear from individuals and independent repair shops about the things that make repair difficult. Both groups complain that they have trouble finding spare parts—manufacturers of products like vacuum cleaners and fitness trackers often don't have any parts available at all. Other products have only a very limited range of parts. Tool availability, both hardware and software, also often limits repair: Many repairs get blocked by lack of access to materials.

Right to Repair is winning. But most people still don't have repair access.

We've been supporting electronics Right to Repair legislation around the country, and we've been glad to see laws pass in 5 states. But a surprising number of manufacturers are not yet complying with legislation in states that have passed it—and many are gating materials, refusing to provide them to customers outside the few states with repair protections. We need to keep pressure up, to make sure that Americans can get the repair access they need. People in Rhode Island deserve the same repair access that is guaranteed by law in California, New York, Minnesota, Oregon, and Colorado.

Repair saves people money, helps small businesses, and keeps stuff out of landfills

Repair jobs are local jobs, and repair creates 10x more jobs than recycling, for the same volume of stuff. Most independent repair businesses are locally owned and operated. Making sure our things can get fixed at those small local shops makes sure that our repair money stays local, in our own communities. When manufacturers' authorized shops have to compete with local repair shops, repair prices stay competitively low, making sure that repair is a better bet than buying new. Fixing stuff is good for the planet, too—it takes 34 years for a cell phone to use as much energy as it takes to make it. Repair helps reduce the 53 million metric tonnes of e-waste we produce each year.

This bill will set us up for a better future, restoring consumer's ability to maintain their own products and creating local green jobs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kyle Wiens'.

Kyle Wiens
iFixit CEO