



February 25, 2025

To: Rep. Joseph J. Solomon, Chair  
Members, House Corporations Committee

From: Carol Anne Costa, Executive Director Senior Agenda Coalition of RI

The Senior Agenda Coalition of RI (SACRI) is pleased to support H5017 introduced by Rep. Diaz and co-sponsors Representatives Kislak, Bennett, Edwards, Giraldo, Shallcross Smith, Ajello, and Fogarty.

Our Coalition's mission is to mobilize people to implement an agenda that improves the quality of life of older Rhode Islanders and adults with disabilities. We accomplish this through *community organizing, public education, advocacy, and legislative action*.

We commend Rep. Diaz and the bill's co-sponsors for showcasing an issue that impacts many persons in Rhode Island who rely on assistive technology (AT) such as wheelchairs, scooters and mobility positioning aids. This includes our growing senior population, older adults and children with disabilities. We believe this is an important consumer protection issue and that persons should have the right to repair their own devices or choose independent repair providers, rather than being forced to rely solely on manufacturers who may deny access to parts, software tools or schematics at a reasonable price.

This bill will promote accessibility, affordability, and independence for the many people with disabilities in our state who need to rely on assistive technology for their mobility needs. Bills addressing the right to repair issue for wheelchairs have been filed in at least seven states already this year.

SACRI urges you to consider recommending passage of this bill and thanks you for your consideration of our support.