

I RIGHT TO REPAIR

We need to fix our stuff.

When only the manufacturer or their “authorized technician” can fix your cell phone or laptop, they can charge whatever they want or they can say “it can’t be fixed” and push you into buying new.

Manufacturers’ repair restrictions affect a wide variety of products from cell phones and computers to farm equipment. And these restrictions are driving Maryland repair shops out of business.

Repair saves families money.



Our research finds that repair can save Maryland [\\$735 million per year](#), leaving more money in consumer pockets.

And with stronger repair rights, this money spent on repair will reduce e-waste and circulate in the local economy rather than filling our landfills and leaving the state.

Ensuring repair rights also:

- Prevents price-gouging from manufacturers for replacement parts.
- Gives consumers more options, and fosters a more competitive marketplace.

Biden, FTC endorse repair rights.

In 2021, [President Biden](#) endorsed right to repair with a sweeping Executive Order to promote economic competition. In addition, the US Federal Trade Commission released a unanimous report: [Nixing the Fix: An FTC Report to Congress on Repair Restrictions](#). The report clearly lays out that repair restrictions are harming consumers, and concluded, “there is scant evidence to support manufacturers’ justifications for repair restrictions.”

Their findings concluded:

- Independent repair is no less safe than manufacturer branded repair.
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- Independent repair does not increase manufacturers’ risk of reputational harm or liability for injury.
- Intellectual Property rights don’t stand in the way of repair.

Right to Repair Legislation

Requires manufacturers of personal electronics and farm equipment to provide “fair and reasonable” access to replacement parts, tools, schematics or repair manuals, and diagnostic software.

- **The policy is based on an existing, effective agreement between car manufacturers and independent repair shops.**
- **This policy does not infringe on copyright, intellectual property, or warranty protection.**

Repairing the digital divide.

Early in the pandemic, a [nationwide laptop shortage](#) left millions of students unprepared for virtual learning. Disruptions in the supply chain meant school districts experienced [months-long delays](#) before receiving laptop orders.

Right to Repair would give schools and other institutions the information they need to maintain equipment, and empower the refurbished market, saving taxpayer dollars and improving digital access for Maryland families.



Right to Repair is a critical part of closing the digital divide.

Reducing toxic e-waste

E-waste is the [fastest growing waste stream](#) in the world, and it adds toxic heavy metals like [lead, mercury, and cadmium](#) into our landfills.

Maryland households produce [195,000 tons](#) of electronic waste per year. With more repair, these materials will remain in use instead of filling up landfills, be more useful for recyclers, and reduce the burden of new source material, manufacturing, and transportation of new devices.

Standing up for farmers.

Maryland farmers deserve protection from price gouging and consumer ripoffs. We need our farmers to be resilient and not dependent on manufacturers to ensure their equipment works.

Farm equipment manufacturers use repair restrictions to prevent [farmers from making necessary repairs](#), which increases costs and creates downtime.



Farmers can experience delays in harvesting crops due to software errors that only authorized technicians can fix.

Supporting Groups:



Baltimore Teachers Union

Working for the betterment of teachers, paraprofessionals, and school related personnel in Baltimore, Maryland.



Maryland PIRG | Standing Up To Powerful Interests

