



From the Office Rep. Pam Marsh

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Statement From Rep. Marsh on Right to Repair Bill

SALEM, Ore. – On the floor, **Rep. Pam Marsh (D - Southern Jackson County)** shared the following thoughts on SB 550, the Right to Repair bill:

“Oregonians living with physical and medical disabilities, from children to seniors, rely on manual and powered wheelchairs and other mobility devices. Currently, wheelchair users and independent repair shops are prohibited from accessing the necessary parts, embedded software, tools, and documentation needed to perform diagnostics, maintenance, or repairs on those wheelchairs.”

My friend Hannah uses an electric wheelchair and organizes repair workshops at Talent Maker City back home in my district. I asked Hannah, who lives with this issue, what she thought about this bill. She said, ‘Working with an organization -- Oregon spinal cord injury connection -- that provides wheelchair maintenance has given me a front row seat to how even small repairs can immediately improve quality of life. With SB 550 our mechanics will have access to parts and schematics, enabling us to cut the long wait times our clients and ourselves have been enduring for far too long. These wait times can cause health issues and impact mental health. SB 550 will give disabled people agency over the equipment that is integral to our daily lives. There needs to be greater emphasis on trusting the disabled community as far as our intimate knowledge of needs and ability to do repairs.’”

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