



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Repair Options for Wheelchairs Are on the Horizon after Today's Senate Vote

Delays and costs to repair wheelchairs and other mobility equipment led to legislation

SALEM, OR – Wheelchair users and independent repair shops often are prohibited by manufacturers from getting the parts, tools, or documentation needed to fix broken or worn-out equipment. That will change if the bill passed today in the Oregon Senate becomes law.

The legislation widens repair options so users of wheelchairs and other mobility equipment can shrink the length of time their important devices are out of commission. If Senate Bill 550 becomes law, customers and independent shops will get the same access to repair resources that the equipment companies give authorized repair shops.

“It’s common sense and it sends the power back to Oregonians who depend on wheelchairs and other mobility devices,” said **Senator Janeen Sollman (D – Washington County)**. “I don’t want anyone waiting weeks or months for equipment to be fixed, or spending way more than necessary on a repair that could be done at home or at a local shop.”

Senator Sollman is chief sponsor of the bill.

“More than one in four wheelchair repairs leave consumers stranded at home for some period of time,” Corinne Schram of Disability Rights Oregon said in a committee hearing. “SB 550 will have a dramatic impact on the quality-of-life experienced by many disabled consumers.”

The Senate vote on SB 550 was 27 ayes and one no. The bill goes next to the Oregon House of Representatives.

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