



Henry Welch

Rhode Island Public Interest Research Group Right to Repair Campaign Associate

Testimony in Support of H. 7180, House Corporations Committee

March 12, 2026

Dear Chair Solomon Jr., Vice Chairs O'Brien and Caldwell, and esteemed members of the Rhode Island House Corporations Committee,

My name is Henry Welch, I am a Right to Repair campaign associate representing the Rhode Island Public Interest Research Group, we are a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to the health, safety, and well being of Rhode Island consumers. I am writing today to urge you to **support H. 7180, the Digital Electronics Right to Repair Act** to ensure Rhode Islanders can fix the stuff they own without manufacturer restrictions.

Right to Repair is a simple premise: If you buy something, you own it, and you should be able to fix it however you see fit. This idea has been threatened by manufacturers who restrict access to the parts, tools, and information we need to repair our stuff, restricting repair materials to only their own employees or authorized repairers. This means manufacturers can name their price for a repair or push you to replace your device instead.

The right to repair would require manufacturers to share these necessary repair materials, creating a fair repair market for manufacturers, small businesses and consumers.

In 2021, the FTC published a report regarding anticompetitive practices in the repair market, entitled *Nixing the Fix*. In it, the FTC found that “repair restrictions have made it difficult for consumers to ... make repairs on their own or through an independent repair shop.”¹ Further, the FTC published a policy statement stating that “restricting consumers and businesses from choosing how they repair products can substantially increase the total cost of repairs.”²

These warnings were corroborated in US PIRG’s analysis of American spending on electronics.³ The cost of repair is often very close to the cost of buying a new device,

¹ [Nixing the Fix: An FTC Report to Congress on Repair Restrictions](#): 54, 2021

² [Policy Statement of the Federal Trade Commission on Repair Restrictions Imposed by Manufacturers and Sellers](#), FTC, July 2021

³ [Repair Saves Families Big](#). US PIRG, 2023



meaning all too often, consumers replace devices instead of repairing them. But the Right to Repair would save families big. Repair access would reduce household spending on electronics and appliances by 21.6%. Rhode Island households collectively could save \$168 million annually by repairing their electronics and appliances. Repair restrictions can also hurt local repair businesses, who struggle to serve their customers without the necessary repair materials.

Right to Repair reforms offer commonsense solutions for these issues that would make the repair market more competitive and fair, bringing down prices and benefiting independent businesses.

Across the country, more and more Americans are calling for the Right to Repair. Almost a third of Americans live in a state with Right to Repair legislation in place,⁴ Right to Repair bills have been introduced in all 50 states, and bills covering electronic devices similar to those covered in H.7180 have passed in eight other states.

The Right to Repair is essential to protect consumer rights to fix our stuff, help independent businesses, and restore what it means to own something. We would love the committee to advance H.7180, thank you.

⁴ [*More than one-quarter of Americans covered by Right to Repair come Jan. 1*](#), U.S. PIRG, December 2025