



Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition

**Testimony to the House Economic Matters Committee
HB1124-Consumer Protection - Right to Repair
Position: Favorable**

March 11, 2020

The Honorable Dereck E. Davis, Chair
House Economic Matters Committee
Room 231, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
cc: Members, House Economic Matters Committee

Honorable Chair Kelley and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition (MCRC) is a statewide coalition of individuals and organizations that advances financial justice and economic inclusion for Maryland consumers through research, education, direct service, and advocacy. Our 8,500 supporters include consumer advocates, practitioners, and low-income and working families throughout Maryland.

We are writing today in support of HB1124-Right to Repair.

HB1124 will increase competition in the Maryland marketplace by making the critical diagnostic tools, manuals, and replacement parts available to an individual or a third party at a fair price. SB723 will upend the monopoly that some manufacturers hold on their items and instead, create opportunities for small businesses and individuals to repair these items.

As a result, consumers will no longer have to rely on a manufacturer to fix their items, or sell them a newer, more expensive model. Instead, consumers can repair the item or take it to be repaired, saving money and often, time. The right to repair will also protect consumers from the practice of price-gouging by the manufacturer for replacement parts.

For all these reasons, we support HB1124 and ask for a favorable report.

Best,

Marceline White
Executive Director