



House Technology and Innovation Committee

H.B. No. 301 - Proponent Testimony

Sarah Cline, Campaign Associate

October 14, 2025

Chairman Claggett, Vice Chair Workman, Ranking Member Mohamed, and members of the House Technology and Innovation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 301. My name is Sarah Cline and I'm here representing OhioPIRG and PIRGs across the country. I'm here to testify in support of H.B. No. 301 which will give consumers access to the parts, tools, and information necessary to repair their electronic devices.

I'd like to use my time here today to address three major points regarding the bill:

1. The current costs Ohioans face and the savings this bill will provide
2. The impacts of this bill on Ohio businesses
3. The momentum of this legislation across the country

First, the current costs and potential savings:

The average American has 24 electronic devices in their home. We believe that when a device *you own* breaks, you should be able to fix it. For many Ohioans today, that's not possible. Companies oftentimes restrict access to the parts, tools, and information needed for people to repair the devices they've purchased. When consumers aren't able to fix their things, they're forced to purchase more.

Our most recent report on consumer electronic spending showed that American households spend over \$1700 dollars each year on new electronic devices. Our report also found that repair could reduce that spending by 21.6 percent, which would save an average family roughly \$382 a year. Ohioans care about cost and this reduction in spending could save them more than \$1.8 billion annually.

Second, the impacts of this bill on Ohio businesses

Consumers are oftentimes forced back to big-box manufacturers when they seek out repair for a broken device. Instead of being reliant on global supply chains subject to geopolitical shocks, consumers can save money with repairs while supporting locally-owned repair shops – an industry that has declined by 50% since 1998. This bill would allow Ohioans to reinvest in their communities instead of shelling out money to overseas manufacturers.

Ohio also has a large electronic recycling industry and this bill would result in higher value components and encourage development in this important sector.

Finally, I want to highlight the momentum of this legislation across the nation

Six states have passed digital Right to Repair legislation in the past two years, Texas being the most recent. These bills have received bipartisan support but have faced heavy opposition from large tech companies. Industry groups have claimed that the Right to Repair is dangerous – that consumers will somehow injure themselves changing a battery or that repair will lead to mass cybersecurity attacks. Legislators saw through these deceptive claims, and we've seen that they don't hold water. A third of U.S. consumers already have the right to repair the things they own - Ohioans deserve to join them.

By giving us access to the parts, tools, and information needed to fix the stuff that we already own, H.B. No. 301 will protect the communities, small-businesses, and wallets of Ohioans. Thank you for your consideration.

Sarah Cline