



2400 W. 17th Street, Clash
Wing, Room 1, Lower Level
Wilmington, DE 19806
lwvde@comcast.net
402-571-8948

Testimony in Favor of HB22, Right to Repair:

The League of Women Voters of Delaware
urges favorable consideration of HB 22.

This bill is a consumer protection and environmental protection bill. It gives greater rights to consumers and it helps to protect the environment from discarded trash, especially hazardous electronic trash.

This bill is part of the national Right to Repair movement, with similar bills introduced in several states/nations. The reason that this concept is important is because of the increase in electronic trash in landfills, caused by the explosion in electronic gear from phones to TVs to GameBoys/Xbox devices, many of which are thrown out the first time repairs are needed.

People think that it is cheaper and less hassle to buy the newest, latest technology. This is especially true if it is difficult to repair. In some cases, batteries that may be dead are glued in place, making it impossible to remove and replace these batteries. Sometimes, devices do not have a means of conveniently opening the device for repairs.

Much of the electronics contain batteries with heavy/toxic metals which are a danger to the environment if thrown in the landfill. Some recycling plants may not remove all the electronic gear from the recycling machines and the batteries can burn or explode, in some cases causing millions of dollars in damage to recycling plants. <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-54634802>

Repair shops often need parts and special tools which only the manufacturer has. If the manufacturer does not make these parts and tools, and instruction manuals available to repair shops, then it is difficult or impossible to repair these devices. That is why this legislation is needed.