

Right to Repair Bill Testimony

Legislators:

Thank you for considering the Right to Repair bill. It is a start.

The same rationale that justifies this bill can and should be applied to the whole concept of personal resilience.

Imagine if all Oregon graduates knew how to repair their home, finances, relationships, health, communities, and state! Imagine if they knew how to make the best, not just good or better, decisions for themselves and their families. Please take on the whole problem, not only the small part of equipment repair.

Before 1980, all government levels required schools to teach such economic resilience in high school, and many community colleges also had programs to do so. Home economists taught it. Home Economics is an academically important educational program mandated by the Morrill Act, and other federal legislation, through the land-grant colleges. The discipline, now called Human Ecology, also includes climate change adaptation and is only offered in one high school in the US, in Long Island, NY. As evidenced by the Right to Repair bill, understanding the economics of the home does not only apply to equipment knowledge. The Oregon legislature should mandate the teaching of all the economic expertise needed in the home.

Please sponsor a future bill to re-institute Human Ecology in Oregon high schools. Empower people to be resilient through knowledge of human health, housing, consumer law, medical costs, financial management, and, yes, repairing rather than disposing. School boards are rewarded for teaching to employer's short-term needs rather than life-length needs for individuals. Time and again, it has been proven that earning a higher income or offering government subsidies is no guarantee that families will spend the money wisely. The crucial knowledge for self-preservation and, therefore, state and national

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preservation must be actively taught and made a requirement to graduate for both men and women.

To delve into the concept, I have posted a website: www.forhomelessprevention.com. I live in Eugene, taught Consumer Science for 30 years at City College of San Francisco, and would be more than happy to speak with legislators about this great need for our state and society's resilience. **Prevention** of homelessness and poverty is possible.

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