



# NYPIRG NEWS RELEASE

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## **NYPIRG CELEBRATES LEGISLATURE'S PASSING *RIGHT TO REPAIR* VOTES TO LET NEW YORKERS FIX A WIDE RANGE OF DEVICES INCLUDING CELL PHONES, LAPTOPS**

The New York state Assembly approved a new [Right to Repair bill](#) Friday by a vote of 145 to 1. The legislation, sponsored by Assemblymember Patricia Fahy (A.7006-B) and Sen. Neil Breslin (S.4104-A), passed the state Senate earlier this week by a vote of 59 to 4, and now goes to Gov. Kathy Hochul to be signed into law.

“This is a terrific win for consumers, local businesses and the environment,” said **Russ Haven, NYPIRG General Counsel**. “New Yorkers just want to fix their stuff. We know that repair cuts waste and saves them money. But too many of the things we are trying to fix have unnecessary barriers because most of the top manufacturers won’t provide access to spare parts, repair software or service diagrams.”

“New Yorkers from Niagara Falls to Long Island won a hard-earned victory today -- and if repair can make it there, it can make it everywhere. This is a massive breakthrough for our efforts nationally,” said **U.S. PIRG’s Senior Right to Repair Campaign Director Nathan Proctor**, who coordinates Right to Repair work for PIRG nationally. “This Right to Repair law will save people money, it will protect local repair businesses and it will cut unnecessary, toxic electronic waste. I’m grateful for Assemblymember Fahy, Senator Breslin, all the lawmakers who stood up to some of the biggest and most powerful companies in the world to do the right thing for their constituents and for the environment.”

**Gay Gordon-Byrne, Executive Director of Repair.org** said: “Every consumer in New York is going to benefit from this landmark legislation. We’ll all be able to fix the stuff we like, stop being forced to buy new things we don’t want, and make it possible for the secondary market to provide high quality options for reuse.”

**Kyle Wiens, CEO of iFixit**, said: “This is a huge deal. iFixit has fought for over a decade for consumer’s right to repair their products. We’re looking forward to working with manufacturers to get service documentation in the hands of more people.”

“The Digital Fair Repair Act will ensure that New Yorkers have the ability to exercise their full traditional rights of ownership over products they purchase, including the right to get those products repaired. We are thrilled that New York has become the first state in the country to take this step and is a model for other states and Congress to follow,” said **Chuck Bell, advocacy program director for Consumer Reports**.

The bill covers a wide range of devices with a microprocessor, including cell phones, tablets and IT equipment. However, it excludes cars (which have a previous Right to Repair agreement), farm and heavy equipment, appliances, police radios, medical equipment and gaming consoles. It requires manufacturers to make repair materials -- parts, tools and service information -- available to consumers and independent repair providers on fair and reasonable terms.

When only the manufacturer or their “authorized technician” has the necessary parts, tools or information needed, they can charge whatever they want or push you into buying a new device. These manufacturer-imposed repair restrictions affect a wide variety of products from consumer goods to farm equipment and more. The result is surging repair costs and a massive amount of waste. Electronic waste is now the fastest growing American waste stream.

In 2020, NYPIRG released a report, "[What are New Yorkers Fixing?](#)" which analyzes data from the popular repair instruction website, iFixit.com. The report looks at what items people in New York state are trying to fix, and why that can be harder than it should be. Among the report's findings were:

- iFixit had 4.3 million unique visitors from the state in 2018.
- The most popular products people used iFixit to address were cell phones, laptops, automobiles, gaming consoles, desktop computers -- three of five of which will be covered in this new law.
- Of the 10 most popular manufacturers, 6 don't provide access to spare parts or technical service information like a schematic -- and will now be required to under law.