



Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition

**Testimony to the Senate Finance Committee  
SB 412 - Consumer Protection - Right to Repair  
Position: Favorable**

February 3, 2020

The Honorable Delores Kelley, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
cc: Members, Senate Finance 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 SB 412.

SB 412 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. SB 412 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 SB 412 and ask for a favorable report.

Best,

Marceline White  
Executive Director  
Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition