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SB 382 Consumer Protection – Right to Repair – Powered Wheelchairs
Senate Finance Committee
February 6th, 2025
FAVORABLE

Good afternoon, Chair Beidle and Members of the Senate Finance Committee. My name is Tammy Bresnahan, and I serve as the Senior Director of Advocacy for AARP Maryland. On behalf of AARP Maryland and our more than 850,000 members across the state—especially Maryland’s growing population of aging residents—I am pleased to submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 382: *Consumer Protection – Right to Repair – Powered Wheelchairs*. We also extend our gratitude to Senator Kagan for sponsoring this critical legislation.

Senate Bill 382: Consumer Protection – Right to Repair – Powered Wheelchairs

This bill aims to ensure that manufacturers provide access—on fair and reasonable terms—to essential documentation, parts, embedded software, firmware, tools, and any applicable updates related to powered wheelchairs and their components. This access would be extended to both independent repair providers and wheelchair owners. The bill’s provisions apply prospectively and do not impact any contracts between manufacturers and authorized repair providers that were executed before its effective date.

A violation of the bill would constitute an unfair, abusive, or deceptive trade practice under the Maryland Consumer Protection Act (MCPA), making violators subject to the civil and criminal penalties outlined in the MCPA.

We respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 382 and prioritize the independence, mobility, and quality of life for aging Marylanders who rely on powered wheelchairs.

For follow up or questions, please feel free to contact me at tbresnahan@aarp.org or by calling for 410-302-8451.

