



# Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 ♦ [mota-members.com](http://mota-members.com)

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Senate Finance Committee</b>
<b>Bill Number:</b>	<b>Senate Bill 382</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Consumer Protection - Right to Repair - Powered Wheelchairs</b>
<b>Hearing Date:</b>	<b>February 6, 2025</b>
<b>Position:</b>	<b>Support</b>

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The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports *Senate Bill 382 – Consumer Protection - Right to Repair - Powered Wheelchairs*. The bill will require manufacturers to provide necessary information for repairing powered wheelchairs to independent repair providers and owners. Not providing this information is an enforceable unfair, abusive, or deceptive trade practice under the Maryland Consumer Protection Act (MCPA).

It is common for owners of powered wheelchairs to take their wheelchairs to independent repair providers. This allows for greater access to repairs, faster turnaround times, and more competitive pricing. The freedom to choose where a wheelchair user gets their equipment fixed is crucial given that a wheelchair is an extension of the user, providing mobility, autonomy, and freedom. This bill will ensure that the providers have access to the necessary documentation, parts, embedded software, firmware, and tools to appropriately complete the necessary repairs. Holding manufacturers subject to the MCPA will help to guarantee that manufacturers make these items available while also protecting the manufacturers from having to divulge trade secrets.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Michael Paddy at [mpaddy@policypartners.net](mailto:mpaddy@policypartners.net).