Testimony in Support of SB0382

Wheelchair "Right to Repair"

Thursday, February 6, 2025

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mayor Timothy J. Adams, and I strongly support SB0382, a critical bill that ensures powered wheelchair users have the right to repair their essential mobility devices. This legislation mandates that manufacturers provide independent repair providers and wheelchair owners with access to necessary documentation, parts, embedded software, firmware, and tools for repairs.

As a wheelchair user, I have personally experienced the significant challenges that come with repairing mobility devices. Currently, many wheelchair users are forced to rely solely on manufacturers or authorized service providers, leading to excessive delays, inflated costs, and extended periods without their essential equipment. This not only threatens their independence but also affects their quality of life, employment, and overall well-being.

SB0382 is a necessary step toward ensuring that wheelchair users can access timely and affordable repairs. By granting them the right to repair, this bill upholds principles of fairness, consumer rights, and accessibility. Moreover, it prevents manufacturers from engaging in restrictive and monopolistic practices that unfairly burden individuals with disabilities.

This issue is not merely one of convenience—it is about equity and dignity. For wheelchair users, mobility devices are not optional; they are lifelines. Any delay in repairs can have serious consequences for their health, independence, and daily lives. Additionally, by classifying violations of this act as unfair, abusive, or deceptive trade practices, this bill establishes meaningful accountability for manufacturers.

For these reasons, I strongly urge this committee to support and pass SB0382.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mayor Timothy J. Adams President & CEO, SA-TECH, Inc. 1101 Mercantile Lane, Suite 200 Largo, MD 20772 (301) 322-8880