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The umbrella idea of right-to-repair contains several proponents. The main component is that companies must provide a market for repair parts and manuals that demonstrate how to use such parts to repair the item that was purchased. End users should also receive manuals that describe the parts that are needed. In addition, advocates of the right-to-repair laws are looking to require companies to design future products that have increased repairability and fewer features that enhance the difficulty of repair.

Currently, most companies limit the sale of spare parts and deliberately design their products to prevent unofficial repairs. This forces the end user to pay for the original manufacturer's costly repairs or settle for a full-priced replacement. However, just last year, "President Joe Biden signed an executive order for the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to begin implementing the right-to-repair laws around the U.S. These laws would force companies to ensure future products are easier to repair. Despite the obvious benefits of this proposal, New York is the only state to have

successfully passed a right-to-repair law since 2021, begging the question of why the rest of the country is so hesitant to adopt this policy." ¹

The goal of advocacy groups is to force companies to provide repair-friendly policies, regulations, statutes, and standards at the national, state, and local levels.

Many companies are claiming copyright concerns when it comes to selling parts for their technology. The largest example of this could be seen in the farming industry. Farmers use tractors to work their farms and when they would break down they were able to buy parts and fix them themselves. In the past decade farming equipment has become much more technologically advanced and that is posing a positive and a negative for farmers. The positive is that they are able to work smarter not harder, however, they have been running into costly repair issues. Many of these farmers could no longer purchase parts to repair their equipment. These parts are owned by the company and the company requires a licensed technician to replace or repair any parts. The problem is that the labor costs are exceptionally high and the waiting time could be long. If a tractor breaks down on a Friday they

¹ <https://www.repair.org/stand-up>

may have to wait until Monday to get it repaired. This puts the farmers in a terrible position because they lose a weekend of work especially if they have to harvest that weekend they still have to pay the people that help them. Farmers have been fighting these tech companies to allow the right to repair which will enable them to purchase parts and repair their equipment on their own.

In New York, they just passed the first right-to-repair law in 2022. prior to this law being passed if you broke your iPhone screen you would be forced to go to an Apple store to have it fixed. The cost to repair the screens was exorbitant and there was nothing that you could do about it. Now that New York has passed the right-to-repair law you can go to any repair store and have them fix it for a much lower cost or you can purchase the supplies online from a retailer and complete the repair on your own. The iPhone is just one example of technology that we use every day that is very costly to repair. Another example is 3D printers that are used in educational settings. Many times when schools purchase this equipment they come with a limited warranty and when that warranty expires the school is responsible to pay for the repairs. As we all know, especially in New York City budgets do not normally allow for unforeseen repairs. There is also the wait time for a technician to show up to the

school to evaluate what is required in order for the part to come back and repair the printer. It seems only obvious for schools to be able to purchase parts and have access to manuals that can guide them through a repair.

Another example is the Mercedes Benz Vision EQXX, a long-range, futuristic-looking electric vehicle from a car line that all but forbids you to open the hood, hides the release to do it, and gives you no way to keep the hood open if you do ignore them.²

In conclusion, many people believe and advocate for the right and accessibility to repair items that they have purchased

When you've created this product that has to have high availability and it has to be easily repairable, and then you make it impossible to repair, you're really getting into an area where this may not deliver what it needs to deliver for the food industry.

— Gay Gordon-Byrne