

HB21-1199 Consumer Digital Repair Bill of Rights

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Business Affairs & Labor

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I'd like to start by thanking the Chair and committee members for your consideration of this testimony. My name is Kelly Brough and I submit this testimony on behalf of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce and its affiliate the Colorado Competitive Council in opposition to HB 1199. The Denver Metro Chamber represents 3,000 businesses and their 400,000 employees, and C3 is a statewide coalition of employers, associations and chambers of commerce.

Our opposition to this bill is rooted in two main issues. The first is that this bill is unnecessary, given the current process available for small businesses to be certified to repair products. Today, manufacturers already work with small local businesses to certify them as authorized repair providers, giving consumers more options while also providing manufacturers the assurance that repair providers have received proper training and have appropriate tools. The expansion of sharing proprietary information with any independent repair provider not only puts manufacturers in a challenging position to guarantee the work of a third party that is completely out of their control, but also violates the intellectual property rights of digital equipment manufacturers.

Additionally and importantly, this bill would mandate the sharing of sensitive proprietary information including how electronic products operate, specific schematic diagrams and service code descriptions. The sharing of that information raises major cybersecurity concerns for some manufacturers.

Due to the unnecessary nature of the bill, the violation of intellectual property rights and cybersecurity concerns, we respectfully request a no vote on this bill.