**Right to Repair**

**What it is:**

* Right to Repair legislation requires that producers and distributors of some types of durable medical equipment (DME), such as power wheelchairs, make parts, software and repair manuals available to independent repair technicians

**What happens now:**

* Currently, most DME producers limit access to these necessary repair tools to only technicians and shops that they have trained and/or approved
* This artificial limitation on access to t­hese tools creates long wait times for repairs and expensive markups for parts and labor
* The lack of access to timely repair has many negative effects for people who rely on their DME for transportation, employment and inclusion

**Precedents:**

* In 2013, Massachusetts passed an automotive right-to-repair bill that required automotive manufacturers to sell proprietary diagnostic tools and software to unaffiliated, third-party repair shops
  + Massachusetts recently updated the law to include “telematics,” which are more modern diagnostic tools
* More than half of US states have attempted to pass other forms of right-to-repair, including access requirements for cell phones, farm equipment and other products, but none passed
* In March of 2022, Colorado passed the nation’s first power wheelchair right-to-repair law in the country
  + The law requires power wheelchair manufacturers to make parts, software, tools and documentation necessary to maintain or repair power wheelchairs available to third-party repair shops and technicians

**Solutions:**

* Tennessee could pursue legislation similar to that which passed in Colorado this spring

**Obstacles:**

* The three largest power wheelchair manufacturers are located in Tennessee
  + Medicare regulations incentivize manufacturers to cut costs, which includes limiting access to repairs and marking up repair costs
  + Competitive bidding also incentivizes DME producers to manufacture lower-cost, less-durable equipment, leading to more frequent need for repair
  + Medicare regulations do not cover preventative maintenance, again leading to more frequent need for repair
  + Manufacturer warranties are often written so that they are voided when repairs are conducted by individuals who are not licensed by the company