



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE ▪ BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Julian A. Gold, M.D., Mayor

July 12, 2023

The Honorable Brian Maienschein
Chair, Assembly Committee on Judiciary
1020 N Street, Room 104
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 244 (Eggman) Right to Repair
City of Beverly Hills – Support

Dear Chair Maienschein,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I am pleased to write to you in SUPPORT of SB 244 (Eggman). This bill will require a manufacturer of electronic or appliances products to make available to their product owners and repair shops sufficient documentation and functional parts and tools, to effect the diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of electronic and appliance products.

Frequently, owners of electronics and independent repair shops do not have access to repair guides or the tools and parts which are essential to extending the life of consumer electronics. When the manufacturer or their “authorized technician” are the only businesses with access to parts to fix products, they can either (a) charge higher prices due to lack of competition or (b) state the item cannot be fixed. This can have the effect of a consumer electing to purchase a new appliance or electronic device due to costs of repairing the item or due to the determination of the repair shop that the item cannot be fixed. This can lead to more waste.

Electronic waste (e-waste) is the fastest growing waste stream. E-waste accounts for 70 percent of heavy metals in our waste stream, including lead, mercury, and cadmium. When these metals leach into groundwater, they can accumulate in fish and other aquatic life, with devastating effects on human health, from kidney disease to diabetes to cancer.

According to an October 2020 article in the New York Times entitled “Fix, or Toss? The ‘Right to Repair’ Movement Gains Ground,” manufacturers of a wide range of products have made it increasingly difficult over the years to repair electronic or appliance products. One such cause for this increasing difficulty is due to the limited availability of parts. A second cause is manufacturers are putting prohibitions on who can repair the appliance or electronic product. This impacts a wide range of commonly used products ranging from cellphones to refrigerators.

SB 244 seeks to ensure that California joins the states of New York and Minnesota in granting product owners the right to choose to repair, rather than replace, their consumer electronics and appliances, and the freedom to choose who will perform those repairs.

It is for these reasons that the City of Beverly Hills supports SB 244 (Eggman) and requests an "AYE" vote when heard in your committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julian A. Gold". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a faint, illegible stamp.

Julian A. Gold, M.D.
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: The Honorable Susan Talamantes Eggman, 5th District
The Honorable Ben Allen, Senator 24th District
The Honorable Rick Zbur, Assemblymember, 51st District
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange