

Ashton Tate

Oklahoma State University

Lobbying Report

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OSU-532: Oklahoma Wheelchair Right to Repair

Overview

Rep. Macy's bill is written to provide better access for those in power wheelchairs. This bill allows for contractors and outsourcing of labor of repairing the wheelchair. This allows those needing repairs to limit servicing time because of the lack of labor. "This bill provides users...with access to repair parts, diagnostic software and manuals," Macy said. This bill also provides for penalties, which are given down through the attorney general's office. The first offense for failing to provide parts is five hundred dollars charged to the company. A second offense racks up a \$1,000 fine.

Pros and Needs

This bill provides those in power wheelchairs the ability to fix their own equipment without having to wait on repair times. This bill provides those wheelchair bound with an easier access for life. When your main form of moving around is your power wheelchair, a three day wait time extremely limits the quality of life one can live. This bill does not hurt the business or the consumer because the friendly amendment allow for the charge of parts but not labor. This population of those reporting disabilities are high in the state. Around 691,000 Oklahomans report at least one disabilities. This is around 17.6% of those in the state.

Moving the Body

The biggest task in getting this bill passed was informing the body. Many do not consider accessibility legislation, and the impact it has on others. Something like power wheel chairs is something not many consider or process changing in the every day world. Embracing the emotional side of this issue was key for effective passage of this bill. This was portrayed through the authors explanation. The author has a very personal story about her aunt, and how when her power wheelchair breaks it severely limits her control on her life.

Sources

- <https://oklahoma.gov/okdrs/information/about-us/ok-statistics.html>