



Thank you for having me today to talk about this important topic. I am here on behalf of the Vermont Association of Hospital and Health System to express our support for H.160. From our perspective, if this bill provides a cost-effective path to fix hospital equipment, and we are convinced it does, then we support it and urge you to move forward. Right now, our hospitals are doing everything they can to drive unnecessary costs out of the health care system, and H.160 could help.

Hospitals use a variety of servicers to fix medical equipment. Some hospitals may also have their own in-house technician who service devices, and hire third party service organizations. About 11 of our hospitals utilize The University of Vermont Technical Services Partnership. Hospitals choose the best servicer based on timeliness, service quality, and affordability.

Manufacturers commonly restrict access to servicers to control repair for the equipment they sell to hospitals. They do this by refusing to sell certain parts, denying access to manuals or other important service documentation, and locking the devices with software. All this behavior can limit our choices and can drive up our costs.

Hospitals and their patients deserve the ability to choose the repair provider who we think is best. Sometimes that is the manufacturer's authorized team. Other times, there are better, faster, more cost-efficient options for repair.

Like other right to repair bills that this committee has worked on in the past, this bill ensures that manufacturers can't prevent us from hiring another servicer by denying access to what is needed to complete repairs. This bill protects the hospital's right to choose what is best for patients, when it comes to repair of medical equipment. Manufacturers can and will still fix equipment, but this legislation will end a trend that restricts choice, increases equipment downtime, and has the potential to drive up costs.