March 2, 2026

Representative Michael Marcotte, Chair
Commerce & Economic Development
Vermont State House
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

Representative Edye Graning, Vice-Chair
Commerce & Economic Development
Vermont State House
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

Re: Opposition to H.160 – Medical Device Right to Repair

Dear Chair Marcotte, Vice-Chair Graning, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Patients Rising and the patients and caregivers we serve, we respectfully oppose H.160.

Patients support the right-to-repair movement in many areas. Medical devices, however, are fundamentally different from consumer electronics or household appliances. For people who depend on infusion pumps, imaging machines, ventilators, surgical tools, and other life-sustaining equipment, safe and accurate repair is not about convenience. It is about health and often survival.

Medical devices function under strict federal regulations meant to protect patient safety. Repairs done outside those standards, without proper training, validated parts, or quality controls, raise the risk of malfunction, miscalibration, or diagnostic errors. The fallout from a bad repair in a medical context can be devastating.

Other states that have passed right-to-repair laws recognized the unique safety issues with medical equipment and wrote narrow exceptions. Vermont's other right to repair bill, H 161 also includes this exemption for medical devices.

Patients must never face uncertainty about the reliability of critical medical gear. Any policy on medical device repair has to put patient safety, clinical accuracy, and uninterrupted care first.

We urge the Committee to hold the bill in its current form.

We appreciate your careful review of this issue and would be glad to discuss the patient-safety concerns in more detail.

Sincerely,

Terry Wilcox
Co-Founder & Chief Mission Officer
Patients Rising