



Chair Matt Klein
Senate Commerce Finance and Policy Committee
2105 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Klein and committee members: On behalf of Minnesota Tech for Success, formerly Minnesota Computers for Schools. I write to share our strong support for Senator Kupec's SF1598, which will provide fair access to the parts, tools, and diagnostic equipment farmers and independent technicians need to repair modern day farm equipment. This legislation will ensure a competitive market for repair and restore farmers' right to fix the things they own

Tech for Success is a nonprofit organization, now in its 26th year. Our mission is to create digital equity for students by partnering with schools and educational organizations to provide technology access, engaging STEM Programming, and IT workforce development in underserved communities. MN Tech for Success recycles, refurbishes and repairs donated computer technology, which is placed in schools and nonprofits in Minnesota. Since our founding in 1997, we have placed over 100,000 computers in Minnesota, creating digital equity for students across the state by increasing access to technology. We provide free IT certification training for individuals, most from underrepresented populations who are preparing for entry level employment in the IT field, and paid internships to gain hands-on skills working with computer equipment.

I am here today in support of SF1598. It is critical for us to have the right and ability to repair computer equipment. It is extremely important that we have the necessary parts and access to manuals to refurbish equipment for our schools and students all across Minnesota.

Please support SF1598, so that we can provide quality computer technology for our students and digital equity for all. I offer you the following testimonials that speak to the importance of the right to repair.

Sincerely, Tamara Gillard, Executive Director MN Tech for Success

Educator Testimonials:

"Purchasing computers and laptops from Minnesota Tech for Success allowed us to scale our technology up really quickly. It would have taken a lot longer to upgrade our technology access if we had purchased new because it's much more expensive"

– Tim Schleicher, Database & Tech. Dept. Administrator, Community of Peace Academy

"Access to laptops outside of school exponentially increases students' ability to complete homework, correspond with employers, universities, friends, and teachers via modern communication methods, and become literate with 21st-century technology in a lower stress environment." – Paul Creager, Gordon Parks High School.

"With our tight school budget we would NOT have the equipment we have without the purchase program MTFS offers - we are very thankful that we can purchase great equipment at a fair price."– Ron, Norman County West School District