

## STATEMENT OF AT&T CONNECTICUT

### Regarding House Bill 5660 An Act Prohibiting “Robo” Calls

Before the Committee on Government Administration and Elections  
February 29, 2008

#### **Proposal:**

Proposed Bill No. 5660 proposes to prohibit certain political “robo” calls and place other restrictions on the use of “robo” call technology. Such restrictions include requiring that no caller shall use an automatic dialing-announcing device unless the device is designed and operated to disconnect not later than ten seconds after termination of the telephone call by the subscriber, and that no caller shall use an automatic dialing-announcing device to connect to a cellular telephone.

#### **Comments:**

AT&T Connecticut understands the committee’s concern that consumers not be subject to unwanted automatically dialed calls; however, AT&T is pleased that the committee recognizes that there are situations where it may be reasonable to use automatically dialed calls, for example, in the context of an ongoing business relationship. In addition, there may be other business applications where it may be practical to use an automatic dialing device. With regard to such business communications, AT&T notes that there are consumer protections already in place such as the “Do-Not-Call” list, which allow consumers to avoid unwanted calls in general.

Within the context of legitimate business communications, AT&T opposes unnecessary restrictions. In particular, Section 5 of the bill proposes that no caller shall use an automatic dialing-announcing device to connect to a cellular phone. In fact, it may be impossible for a legitimate business caller to verify whether or not a telephone number is a cellular number. In addition, today, when many individuals use a cellular phone as their primary service, the cellular number is the individual’s preferred or only contact number. Similarly, in Section 3, the bill proposes timing restrictions on automatic dialing devices. AT&T submits that the focus of any legislation should be on the nature of the call and not technical restrictions.

Thus, AT&T asks that the committee not seek unnecessary restrictions on the use of automatic dialing devices used for legitimate business purposes. Should the committee decide to go forward with this proposal, AT&T would appreciate the opportunity to work with the committee to address its concerns.

#### **Conclusion:**

AT&T opposes unnecessary restrictions on the legitimate business use of automatic dialing-announcing devices. Should the committee decide to move forward with this bill, AT&T would appreciate the opportunity to discuss it further with the committee.

