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Energy & Technology Committee
February 21, 2013 - Testimony in OPPOSITION to
HB#6402, AN ACT MODERNIZING THE STATE'S TELECOMMUNICATIONS LAWS
Submitted by Kathy Null, Bridgewater, CT

Good Afternoon honorable members of the Energy & Technology Committee, my name is Kathy Null and I'm the Congressional District 5 lead advocacy volunteer for AARP in Connecticut. I live in Bridgewater with my husband Leo, and we are very concerned with House Bill Number 6402, which would enable AT&T to drop competitive telephone service in Connecticut by simply notifying the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority.

Landline telephone service is a lifeline for many older adults. It provides a level of security that cellphone and other cable or internet-based phone services just can't currently provide.

For instance, many older adults, like my husband, require a landline to test their pacemakers. It is a simple, reliable and affordable way to get the cardiologist the information he needs to monitor my husband's heart health. Not only does this service save him the 30 mile round trip drive, most insurance companies do not cover the costly office visits that would accomplish the same results.

My husband's cardiologist indicates that landline monitoring provides extraordinarily consistent results. When you are living with a heart condition, you want the most reliable results you can get, because your life may literally depend on it.

In addition to the need to monitor pacemakers, many seniors live alone and are concerned about being able to call 911 in an emergency and have first responders know exactly where they are calling from. Cell phones DO NOT tell where the call originates and therefore, are NOT a safe alternative to a landline. In fact, the wireless home phone services that AT&T offers as an alternative, and that I understand they have been showcasing as part of their lobbying efforts, is not reliable for 911 service and their own disclaimers say that. Specifically, AT&T states, "AT&T recommends that you always have an alternative means of accessing 911 service from your home or business during a power or network outage." What, besides a competitive wired land line is a reliable alternative? I have included a copy of this language from their on-line advertisement with my testimony.

My husband still works, we are wired for internet, bundled and modernized. I happily use an I-Pad and a cell phone. Not everyone can afford this, whether they are retired, working or unemployed. Not everyone who can afford this wants it and they should not be put in a position of being forced into bundles and higher cost services. Even if all of us wanted to move to cellular, the fact is, there are many areas of the state do not have reliable cell phone service. I live in a very rural area of Connecticut and cell service is dangerously spotty.

The bottom line is, like me, many older adults simply do not feel safe without access to a landline. I urge you to ensure regulatory control and to prevent AT&T from hanging up on Connecticut's seniors.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

AT&T Wireless Home Phone Disclaimer Language.

See pages 3-4 of testimony for website version advertisement/disclaimer.

“IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Wireless Home Phone is a Commercial Mobile Radio Service and may be operated while in motion. It may be used with home phone equipment in a residence or office and may be taken on vacation, in an RV or a hotel. Wireless Home Phone ("WHP") device is designed to provide service that is consistent with other AT&T wireless devices, but AT&T does not represent that the WHP service is equivalent to landline phone service. 911 calls are routed based on the wireless network's automatic location technology, but you may have to provide your home address to emergency responders. AT&T recommends that you always have an alternative means of accessing 911 service from your home or business during a power or network outage. Corded or cordless landline home phone equipment is not included. Not compatible with services requiring data including but not limited to home security systems, wireless messaging and data services, fax service, medical alert systems, medical monitoring systems, credit card machines, IP/PBX Phone systems, or dial-up Internet service. May not be compatible with your DVR / Satellite systems, please check with your provider. DSL customers should contact their provider before transferring a phone number to ensure uninterrupted DSL internet service. Performance can be impacted by terrain, location, in-building obstacles, and other factors. Rollover® Minutes: Unused Anytime Minutes expire after the 12th billing period. Night & Weekend Minutes and Mobile-to-Mobile Minutes do not roll over. Limited Time Offer. Discounted pricing requires a 2-year wireless voice agreement. Subject to Wireless Customer Agreement. Credit approval required. Activation fee up to \$36/line. Geographic, usage, and other terms, conditions, and restrictions apply, and may result in service termination. Coverage and services not available everywhere. Taxes and other charges apply. Early Termination Fee After 14 days, ETF up to \$150. Restocking fee up to \$35. Other Monthly Charges: Line may include a Regulatory Cost Recovery Charge (up to \$1.25), a gross receipts surcharge, federal and state universal service charges, fees and charges for other government assessments. These are not taxes or government required charges.

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AT&T Wireless Home Phone

2-year contract*

Regular Price \$129.99
Instant Savings with Contract -\$129.99

Due Today **FREE**

Select Qty.: 1

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WITH ONLINE PURCHASE

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Check in-store availability

*2-year contract pricing req new activation and qual monthly data plan. Activation fee applies.

Unlimited nationwide calling
\$19.99/mo.



VIEW VIDEOS

Configure your phone

1 Add a device

2 Add a plan

3 Add services

4 Add accessories

Already an AT&T customer?
Add a line / Upgrade

You and 338 others like this. 338 people like this.

14

Overview

Details

In the Box

Reviews ★★★★★

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Transfer Your Number

Check eligibility >
Learn more >

To check the status of a transfer in progress, visit att.com/port.

Home phone service for less



INTRODUCTION

Keep your number and telephone

AT&T Wireless Home Phone gives you the peace of mind you love from a home phone at a great price.

Get unlimited nationwide calling for \$19.99 a month plus features like voicemail, caller ID, and call waiting at no additional cost. It's a new way to save on home phone service and keep your existing home telephone and number.

Related Package



AT&T Wireless Home Phone Package
\$70.00

Package Details

- AT&T Wireless Home Phone
- 3-Handset Cordless Phone
- Choice of Voice Plans

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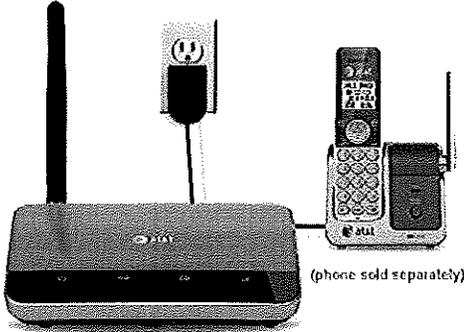
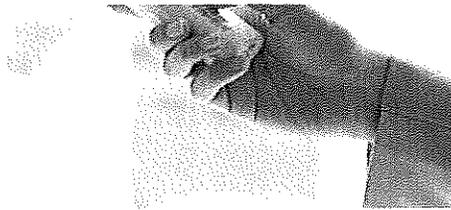
PRICE

Choose your plan

Plans start as low as \$9.99 when adding a line to your FamilyTalk® plan or \$19.99 for unlimited nationwide calling.



Popular Devices



SETUP

Easy, fast and portable

Just plug your existing corded or cordless telephone into your new AT&T Wireless Home Phone base unit and you're ready to go. No telephone wall jack required. You can use your home phone anywhere you have a strong cellular signal and available electrical outlet. Set it up in the kitchen, bedroom -- or take it with you on vacation.

Note: DSL customers should contact their provider before transferring a phone number to ensure uninterrupted DSL internet service. Wireless Home Phone service is not compatible with services requiring data including but not limited to home security systems, wireless messaging and data services, fax service, medical alert systems, medical monitoring systems, credit card machines, IP/PBX Phone systems or dial-up internet service.



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HTC Vivid (TM) -
Black >
\$0.01
View Details >



Apple iPhone 4S
- 16 GB -
Black >
\$99.99
View Details >

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Item SKU: 65498(AT&T Wireless Home Phone - Silver)

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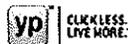
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