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February 1, 2019

Senator Sears and Committee Members
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Dear Chairman Sears and Committee Members,

I write on behalf AARP-VT, an organization dedicated to enhancing quality of life for all as we age. Representing approximately 140,000 Vermonters we work for positive social change and to deliver value to our members through information, advocacy and service. I am writing let you know that we support S.18, a bill that would limit unconscionable terms in contracts.

AARP-VT has long been concerned about provisions included in standard form contracts that disfavor the consumer as compared to the drafter of the contract. Too often our members who seek services from cellphone, cable television, or car rentals companies are subject to terms in contracts that place serious and unfair burdens on individuals in favor of these corporations. Such unfair terms could include the requirement that consumers pay high upfront costs to resolve disputes; require individuals to travel to distant locations to resolve disputes; limit what cause of actions or remedies that may be pursued; and limit appeal rights. We object to the inclusion of such terms in standard form contracts and S.18 works to help deter the inclusion of such terms.

To protect our members and all Vermonters from these unconscionable terms in contracts, AARP-VT strongly supports the passage of S.18.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Marchildon".

Greg Marchildon
Executive Director, AARP-VT

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