

Recipient Name

Address

Dear Senator [or Representative] _____:

I am writing to ask you to support the Fairness in Nursing Home Arbitration Act (S. 512 and H.R. 1237) and Arbitration Fairness Act (H.R. 1020). These bills address a problem that I am very concerned about -- the practice in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and other long-term care facilities of requiring families to agree to arbitrate serious injuries, the death of their loved one, or financial abuse.

Predispute arbitration clauses are unfair to consumers because:

- Families are under stress when they admit their loved ones to long-term care facilities. They are usually in no position to challenge the contract the facility offers them.
- Families do not expect their loved ones to be neglected. They do not realize what serious harm could occur, and that arbitration may not be appropriate, especially if their loved one is badly hurt or dies. These bills would not prohibit arbitration; they would just give consumers and providers the same choice -- to arbitrate or to take a case to court.
- Most people do not understand that the arbitration process is expensive and that they may not be able to afford to take their case to arbitration. They also may not realize that the facility will choose the arbitrator and the place of the arbitration.

Unfortunately, many of our state's long-term care facilities consistently provide poor care. The elderly and people with disabilities should not be denied the right to have their cases of neglect and abuse heard in a court of law.

Please support these important bills.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Address

Phone Number

Email