

be a duration in the contract. I think, actually, the clubs probably make...would make more money because they get a higher fee on a shorter contract. If it is an extended contract, they can sell it for a length, and that is a person's own discretion. It kind of bothers me. I kind of know somebody in this body that don't want to interfere with people's lives or contracts or business, but we are talking about seven days sometimes. And I think that, you know, I'm saying, how can we protect everyone but I do oppose again the Ashford amendment. It doesn't hurt that much and you've almost defeated the bill if then they can do as they please without some accountability.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Nelson. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. President, members, Senator Ashford, I'd like to know exactly what your amendment is, does it strike all of 17 and you feel there should be no restriction?

SENATOR ASHFORD: Yes, right. My argument is there are a substantial number of restrictions in the bill already that enlarge the rights of consumers. You don't want to restrict them by not allowing a health club to provide alternative durations of more than one year. I mean, that's...you are working against yourself. First of all, we enlarge the rights of the consumer in the bill giving them reasons to cancel, that they may or may not already have under common law. We are enlarging their rights, and then we are saying but you can't have a contract for more than one year unless it is renewable one month by month. What is going to happen in reality is these businesses are not going to be...you are going to end up having to pay higher fees because they can't go beyond one year. So you are not getting...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Why would they need higher fees to go beyond one year?

SENATOR ASHFORD: Well, because, you see, one of the benefits to a club is that...

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Ashford, would you speak in the microphone, please.

SENATOR ASHFORD: One of the benefits to a club is they know they have someone there for longer than a year, and then the benefit to the consumer is if you stay in for longer than one