

The only reason carriers could possibly have for NOT wanting to give customers this warning information is so they can continue to receive the windfalls that they get when customers unwittingly exceed their plan limits. And the fees for exceeding limits are outrageous and should be regulated in the same way banking fees recently have been regulated.

In addition, rollover minutes like AT&T has should be mandatory for all plans. (Unfortunately AT&T's network doesn't work well where I live.) After all, we have prepaid for these minutes and they should not evaporate if we don't use them by the end of the billing period. This is also very similar to the recent new regulations for expiration dates and inactivity fees on gift cards. If we use a prepaid phone (rather than a plan) we don't lose the minutes at the end of the month, and the minutes often cost less than the plan minutes as well. Why should a customer be penalized for agreeing to be tied to a carrier for a period of time?

The wireless companies are getting away with things that have recently been regulated in other spheres of commerce, and they need to be brought into line. While insufficient by themselves, the warnings that are proposed here are a useful first step in the right direction.