

Dear Oregon legislators,

My name is Julissa Sourjohn and I am writing in support of HB 3118. My husband has been incarcerated at OSP for about three years. I live twenty minutes away, so I am able to visit him in person about three days per week. Phone calls have also been an important part of our relationship. During the summer, we talk every day; during the winter, he doesn't have as much availability due to work but we still talk as often as we can.

Our phone calls cover every topic. We talk about our daily lives as well as our plans for the future. Phone calls are an important way to incorporate him into our family life. We put him on speakerphone at the table during holidays and birthday parties so he is included when the whole family gets together. When his brother passed away, I wasn't able to visit him in person, but I was able to break the news over the phone. Hearing my voice was a lot more personal than a text message.

I have seen what an impact phone calls make for my husband. On the days I don't visit him in person, he can get kind of lost in the routines of prison. Our phone calls bring a normalcy to him, a connection to the outside world, and a reminder that he isn't alone. When I am having a rough day, he is likewise the person I rely on for love and encouragement. He is worth the many obstacles to maintain that connection.

Our phone calls can cost up to \$100 per month. The cost limits how much we can talk. We sometimes need to cut back our calls to one or two times per week in order to save money. We are often hyper-aware that every minute we talk is costing us. There are times when there is so much to talk about, with children, grandchildren, and life itself, but we are forced to rush through it or cut it short because the account is running low. Free prison phone calls would be an absolute asset to AIC's and their families and this bill has my full support.

Sincerely,

Julissa Sourjohn  
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