

Dear Oregon legislators,

My name is Scott Pagniano, and my brother is incarcerated at the Oregon State Penitentiary. When I lived in Oregon, I was able to visit him about once per month. Now, I live in Spokane, Washington, which is about six hours away, so I am not able to visit him at all. Outside of in-person visits, we have communicated at times through video visits and letters, but phone calls are our preferred method of communication. We have talked on the phone almost every Thursday morning for the past ten years.

We talk about the typical things brothers talk about: what's going on in our lives, how work is going, our favorite sports teams, and music, among other things. Our calls have also allowed him to stay up to date on family life events, like the birth of my grandchildren. Our phone calls have been very meaningful for both of us. They are essentially the only way we have to stay in contact. Given how many other aspects of his life have been taken away, I know that our phone calls are an especially bright spot for my brother.

The ability to talk on the phone is hugely important, especially for people who are not able to visit in person. Phone calls are a lifeline, a tie to what is going on outside, and a tie to a person's loved one. They make a positive impact on both the AIC and their family members. Fortunately, the cost of phone calls has not been too much of a burden for me. I am able to add \$50 to the phone account as needed every couple months with little worry. However, I know I am in a different financial position than a lot of people who wish to stay in touch with their loved ones in prison. And if I could not afford phone calls, I don't think my brother could, as he does not have any source of income. It would be a very good thing if prison phone calls were free.

Sincerely,

Scott Pagniano
Spokane, WA