

Dear Oregon legislators,

My name is Christine McClinton and my husband is incarcerated at OSP. I live in Happy Valley, Oregon, which is 50 miles away, so it has been difficult for me to visit him. We speak on the phone at least once per day.

Phone calls have been extremely important for our relationship. In fact, it was over the phone that we got married! Because it is difficult to visit him in person, our entire relationship has unfolded over phone and video visits. Our phone calls help motivate my husband to be the person he wants to be. When he's not able to communicate with family and friends, it really affects him mentally. It affects everyone in the prison when they can't call their loved ones. It puts people on edge.

Our phone calls cost around \$100 per month. We both contribute towards phone costs, though I contribute more because I have more access to funds. However, I wish we could utilize that money for other important things. My family is struggling financially. I'd like to spend this money on taking care of our daughter. My husband could use the money he's currently spending on phones for the commissary. We have made these sacrifices because staying in touch has been very important to us. If phone calls were free, we would be able to stay in touch while saving our limited funds for other important needs.

Sincerely,

Christine McClinton
Happy Valley, OR
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