

Dear Oregon legislators,

My name is Susan Carver and I live in Cottage Grove. My son has spent the last twelve years incarcerated at OSP, which is about 100 miles away. I try to visit him in person once per month. The most consistent way we stay in touch is over the phone. He calls me every Monday.

On our phone calls, we usually share general updates about our lives and how we are doing. We also often talk about football, as we are both huge fans. He primarily follows the NFL teams, while I mainly follow the Ducks. Our weekly phone conversations are a highlight for both of us. There are not many places my son can find joy, so it makes his day when we can talk either in person or over the phone. Our conversations are one of the only connections he has to the outside and one of the only ways he can know what is going on with the family.

Phone calls have been very important for our relationship. We have a closer relationship now than we have ever had before, and that is in large part due to our weekly phone calls. As I approach eighty years old, we are both aware that every moment together is precious given the uncertainty of the future.

Thankfully, given my financial situation, covering phone call costs has not been an issue from my end. Before he passed away, my son's father contributed a good amount to my son's central trust account. More recently, I deposited \$1,000 into the account about six months ago, and my son is still using those funds. Not all of the money goes towards phone calls; it also goes towards the commissary. However, if we were not contributing to his account, my son could not afford to make phone calls himself. I am aware that there are a lot of inmates whose families cannot provide the same level of support as we have been able to. For those inmates, and especially those without an income, the cost of phone calls is a big deal. Phone calls are a lifeline for a lot of inmates who otherwise have little to look forward to, and they should be free and accessible to all.

Sincerely,

Susan Carver
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