

Dear Oregon legislators,

My name is Matthew Hankins and I am writing in support of HB 3118. I live in Wyoming, but I have a close friend incarcerated in Oregon whom I try to talk with as much as I can. We have known each other for sixteen years. Thankfully, his girlfriend is able to add money to his phone account for us, because neither of us could otherwise afford it. I believe it costs upwards of \$60 per month.

I know how important phone calls are for inmates because I was recently released from a fourteen year prison sentence in Wyoming. During my incarceration I spoke with my family at least three times per day. We emotionally supported each other, discussing how our days were going, including both struggles we were going through and the good things in our lives. It was over the phone that I was able to be present with my sister when she had my niece and nephew.

Sometimes, I wasn't able to talk with my family for a few weeks or a month at a time because we couldn't afford it. Those periods were detrimental to my mental health. When I was stressing out or really angry, talking to my family would help me calm down. Prison life is not easy, and sometimes, I just needed to hear a family member's voice.

Phone calls being made free in Oregon would be a game-changer. It would help people financially and would also allow people to stay more connected to their family. I know it would mean a lot to my friend at OSP.

Sincerely,

Matthew Hankins  
(307) 369-9453  
matthewhankins970@gmail.com