

Dear Oregon legislators,

My name is Allen Black and my brother has been incarcerated in Oregon for thirty-two years. Currently, he's at OSP, which is about 180 miles away from me. I live in Seattle, Washington. We have used the phone to stay in touch for the entire time he has been in prison. We talk one to two times per week. Sometimes, it's on his dime, while other times, it's on mine. I put \$50 on my phone account every couple months.

We have been through a lot over the past thirty-two years: deaths of family members, as well as happy family milestones, and plenty of ups and downs in our own lives. And we have discussed all of it over the phone. For my brother, these conversations are everything. There's probably nothing that compares to calling family members or friends. There have been times when he didn't have anything positive in his life besides outside conversation. Our calls have greatly impacted his mental health.

Putting money on the phone account has always been doable on my end. Talking to my brother is not something I would be willing to go without. But the cost for my brother, who makes less than a dollar per hour, is really staggering. Especially if inmates have no other sources of income, it can be really hard for them to afford to maintain contact. Free phone calls would put a lot less stress on my brother and his fellow inmates. Passing HB 3118 would be a huge thing for inmates and their families.

Sincerely,

Allen Black
Seattle, WA