

Submitter: Karen Cain

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3118

Hello Members of the Legislature.

I have two sons, and they were co-defendants in 1998.

One served from then till 2016 and the other till 2020.

During that time, I spent out of my own pocket a total of over \$70,000.00 on phone communication with them.

I am grateful that I had no other children to go without as a result, as I have met many a parent who was not so fortunate and many a child who did go without even the necessities so that the family could keep in phone communication with the incarcerated family member.

I was also fortunate that I was able to move closer to where they were housed, so that I could visit in person frequently as well.

I know that the cost of the phone communication was detrimental to me in many ways, and yet I managed to keep putting money out for my sons to have that form of communication with myself and other family and friends because I knew how important it was to them and to me.

I know that I was fortunate to have employment, a home and the ability to pay for the phone communication and I know most people I have met are not so fortunate.

It truly is horrible to choose between feeding your family and communicating with your incarcerated loved one. It should not be that way.

Other states have free phone communication for the incarcerated and Oregon should have that as well.

It is time for Oregon to make the switch to free phone calls and implement all that HB 3118 encompasses and I ask that you pass this bill.

Thank you,

Karen Cain