

**Testimony Submitted by  
Angela Donley, Policy Analyst  
Oregon Consumer Justice  
To the House Judiciary Committee**

February 18, 2025

Regarding: Support for HB 3118

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair Chotzen, Vice-Chair Wallen, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Angela Donley. I appreciate the opportunity to testify today in support of HB 3118 on behalf of Oregon Consumer Justice.

Oregon Consumer Justice (OCJ) envisions a vibrant future where all Oregonians live with dignity and abundance and experience health, joy, and economic opportunity. We work collaboratively across policy and advocacy, community engagement, and the law, to realize a more just and equitable Oregon where people come first. For too long, flawed systems and policies have stood in the way of this reality, with communities of color most often experiencing significant harm. Informed by consumer insights, OCJ works to make financial and business transactions reliably safe and supports Oregonians in knowing and exercising their consumer rights.

Oregonians deserve free and direct ways to stay connected with their loved ones. Maintaining communication between justice-involved individuals and their families has been proven to reduce recidivism, enhance mental health, and boost community safety. As 95% of incarcerated individuals return to their communities, remaining engaged with their families and support networks is crucial<sup>1</sup>.

Currently, Oregon ranks 36th in the nation for prison call affordability<sup>2</sup>. The incarceration of a family member often means the loss of an income, creating financial strain and making it

---

<sup>1</sup> *Reentry trends in the United States*. US Department of Justice. April 14, 2004 from [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/)

<sup>2</sup> (2025, February 18). *Prison Phone Justice*. Prison Phone Justice. Retrieved February 18, 2025, from <https://www.prisonphonejustice.org/>

more difficult for families to maintain contact. With over 12,000 individuals incarcerated<sup>3</sup>, families are bearing the financial burden estimated at around \$9 million annually.

HB 3118 will ensure that individuals involved in our justice system can maintain vital connections with their families and communities. Oregon must adopt communication standards similar to those already established in states including Connecticut, California, Massachusetts, Colorado, and Minnesota.

Thank you for your consideration and your service in building the future that Oregonians deserve.

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.oregon.gov/doc/Documents/inmate-profile.pdf>