

Dear Chair Kroph, Vice Chair Wallan, Vice Chair Chotzen and members of the committee, my name is Kyle Colleen Black and I am in support of HB3118.

A phone call is 9 cents per minute, with a max time of 30 minutes per call, totaling \$2.70. That may not sound like a lot, but when you only earn \$50 a month that works out to almost 4% of a monthly wage for one phone call. My current phone bill for an entire month is \$60, \$2.00 a day for unlimited phone calls.

I am referring to the financial impact versus the need for family connection because of the way that we treat people who have made choices that resulted in incarceration. Oregon's prisons are filled with our community members who suffer from poverty, lack of education, underprivilege, gender bias, racial disparity and family histories of incarceration. While they are incarcerated, for-profit companies take advantage of a demographic that is reliant on the services that they provide....it is extortion targeted towards those that are already struggling with the challenges of life.

It is a shame that the agency that we have appointed to govern, rehabilitate and help people become law-biding citizens allows them to be taken advantage of and doesn't protect them from being extorted by companies making money off an inmate's unfortunate circumstances, and even the agency itself profits from such engagement.

It is appalling to justify treating people who have committed crimes as less than, unworthy or unfair. Patting ourselves on the back when we talk about being role models and setting good examples.....and we do it when we deem those worthy of receiving it. Those who we have condemned and discarded, who have been damaged and broken themselves are taken advantage of under the worst of conditions. And it is done consciously.

Supporting HB3118 would be such an opportunity to set an example of what helping people looks like. Thank you.

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