

Submitter: Karen Cain
On Behalf Of: Oregon CURE
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3118

In Support of House Bill 3118

I write on behalf of Oregon Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE).

We are an all-volunteer non-profit organization that supports the incarcerated and their families

and friends by advocating for effective criminal justice policies and procedures.

We have support groups throughout the state, and we receive a great deal of feedback

regarding the phone communication costs to the prisoners and their loved ones.

As a result, we know that the outrageous costs to maintain communication with an incarcerated

loved one creates a huge financial burden that many are not able to rise above.

We also know how critical that communication is to the rehabilitation of the incarcerated

individual, as well as to the reduction of recidivism and the success of reintegration upon

release. Regular communication additionally fosters a healthy relationship between the

incarcerated individuals and their loved ones, which is especially vital to the children of the

incarcerated.

HB 3118 is necessary legislation that addresses the financial, emotional and restorative needs

of the incarcerated and their loved ones.

Other states have very successfully implemented similar changes to their communication

opportunities to the incarcerated, in the way of free phone calls, video visits and text messaging

to remove the financial burden from the incarcerated and their loved ones and it is time for

Oregon to do the same.

Oregon CURE asks that our legislators pass HB 3118 because it is the right thing to do.

Thank you.