

“The cost of phone calls is beyond stressful financially. With the amount of time we talk, I routinely spend \$200 per month on phone calls.”

- Natalie Belles



“We have a closer relationship now than we have ever had before, and that is in large part due to our weekly phone calls. As I approach eighty years old, we are both aware that every moment together is precious given the uncertainty of the future.”

- Susan Carver, Cottage Grove



“Phone calls have been very, very important for our relationship. We both feel better emotionally and mentally when we talk to each other.”

- Ruther Perrott, Eugene



“Our phone calls are very important to both of us. We always make each other laugh. For my brother, each laugh is a precious moment of reprieve. His demeanor always changes when we talk.”

- Mike Winter, Albany



"...because of my health issues, I've only been able to visit him once. The only way we stay in touch is over the phone. He calls me two to three times per week."

- Mary Kennedy



“Phone calls being made free in Oregon would be a game-changer. It would help people financially and would also allow people to stay more connected to their family.”

- Matthew Hankins



“When you are in prison, the phone is a very valuable resource and lifeline. Having a connection to the outside changes your psyche. It makes you feel connected to the world rather than isolated from the public”

- Jim Jones, McMinville



“We try to talk at least a couple of times per week but it is dependent on our finances. I don't have a lot of money, so we have to keep phone calls limited to \$20 per month.”

- Jennifer Wells, Sutherlin



“Our phone calls cost around \$100 per month... My family is struggling financially. I’d like to spend this money on taking care of our daughter.”

- Christine McClinton, Happy Valley



“For my husband’s mother and sisters, paying for phone calls is more than just a burden. It is often impossible.”

- Chelsea Rosales, Portland



“My brother has been incarcerated for thirteen years, and I find myself in a frustrating position, being unable to talk to him simply because I can’t afford it in this economy.”

- Charles Hayes



“With my son’s limited income in prison, he has to make difficult decisions between putting the little money he has towards phone calls or buying food, hygiene products, and envelopes from the commissary”

- Nisq’Atawi Shuey, Klamath Falls



“ For incarcerated people, connections to the outside are a lifeline and can sometimes be the determining factor when it comes to success after release.”

- Bernadette Williams



“Not being able to call would make it difficult to maintain our relationship. It would take away my brother’s outlet and crush his spirit.”

- Mike Winter, Albany



“So staying connected with his loved ones, and feeling like they are still a part of each other’s lives, is vital for his mental well-being. And staying in touch with him is vital for mine.”

- Natalie Belles



“he was somehow able to call me half an hour before I gave birth to our daughter. At the time, I was alone, terrified, and desperate to hear his voice. Although he was nervous too, he shared only encouragement and love, telling me how strong I was and reassuring me that I could do it. His voice gave me the strength I needed”

- Chelsea Rosales, Portland



“Sometimes I spend up to \$150 per month just to stay in touch. These days, two incomes are essential to sustain a family, while I am responsible for running a household on a single income.”

- Tasha Terry



“Especially in prison, when a person goes a long time without speaking with friends and family, it is easy for depression and negativity to sink in.”

- Jason Jones



"...the cost has impacted his other relationships, particularly with his sisters and his son. Currently, he can only call them two to three times per month because they can't afford to talk more often. I know that a lot of families can't even afford that."

- Ruth Perrott, Eugene



"...But as money has become harder to save, those calls have become less and less frequent. Now we don't talk more than a few times a year."

- Charles Hayes



“If phone calls were free, we would be able to stay in touch while saving our limited funds for other important needs.”

- Christine McClinton, Happy Valley



"I already struggle to cover the costs of my mortgage, bills, food, and providing for my children. At times, I have had to rely on credit cards to make ends meet. Paying for phone calls on top of all that is extremely hard"

- Natalie Belles



“It is difficult for me to [pay] because I am on a fixed income, disability social security, and it is already difficult to manage financially.”

- Mike Winter, Albany



“It is heartbreaking to watch them have to choose between paying to hear their family member’s voice or paying their bills.”

- Chelsea Rosales, Portland



“My son has been incarcerated at OSP for the past five years. Between the four-hour drive and my work schedule, I have not been able to visit him in person. Phone calls have therefore been the only communication I get with him”

- Nisq'Atawi Shuey, Klamath Falls



“When guys ran out of money and couldn’t make calls, you could see how much stress it caused. Regaining the ability to call turned their mood 180 degrees as they came back noticeably more happy and easygoing.”

- Jim Jones, McMinville



“I think it’s a terrible situation when a person cannot afford to talk to their loved ones... money should never be the determining factor when it comes to that.”

- Ruth Perrott, Eugene



“If we had not been able to speak over the phone during those times, I am almost certain he would not be alive right now.”

- Bernadette Williams



“These phone calls have been absolutely crucial for maintaining our relationship... Without them, my son would hit rock bottom”

- Jennifer Wells, Sutherlin



"Now, every time I put him on speakerphone, our daughter excitedly shouts "Dada, Dada!" That, along with in-person visits and video calls, is the way she knows him as a parent in her life."

- Chelsea Rosales, Portland



“The ability to save that money and not constantly worry about phone bills would be a blessing in our lives.”

- Tasha Terry



“No family should have to experience that kind of separation just because they don’t have enough money.”

- Mike Winter, Albany



“His brother lost his job, and his mother doesn’t have a lot financially, so my contributions help him stay connected with them.”

- Mary Kennedy



“ It affects everyone in the prison when they can’t call their loved ones. It puts people on edge.”

- Christine McClinton, Happy Valley



“ I already had to make impossible decisions between paying the power bill, putting gas in my car, or buying diapers for my youngest child. Paying for phone calls added just one more thing to balance.”

- Nisq'Atawi Shuey, Klamath Falls



“I know that if I didn’t contribute, it would be difficult for my friend to stay in touch with his loved ones”

- Jason Jones



“If I did not put money on his account, he would not be able to afford to call myself or his other family members.”

- Karen Anderson



“Keeping in contact definitely has its own set of burdens. These days, our phone calls routinely cost \$200 per month.”

- Ben Ogletree



“These conversations are crucial for him to refocus his mind from his cell to the future he’s going to come home to.”

- Chelsea Rosales, Portland



"...it is difficult for me. I am on disability and only receive so much per month. Sometimes, by the end of the month, I don't have enough money left to send him."

- Mary Kennedy



“Without being able to communicate with your loved one, it feels like a missing piece, a broken family... a lot of families cannot afford to stay in touch at all, and free phone calls would give them that crucial opportunity.”

- Melissa Osorio



"...it's a real struggle to afford these calls.... We wouldn't have to worry about paydays or scraping together money to add to the phone account."

- Jennifer Wells, Sutherlin



“ If we want AICs to reintegrate into society successfully after release, we must eliminate financial barriers hindering their communication with their supporters throughout their incarceration”

- Lauren Holtz



“It was through phone calls and in-person visits that my mother and I were able to build a real relationship.”

- Lacey Detzel



“Today, her relationship with her father means everything to her. Every time she hears the special ringtone I set up for her father’s calls, her face lights up and she immediately comes running from the other room to speak with him.”

- Lindsey Caudle



“Phone calls have been very money-consuming over the years. I have spent thousands of dollars to stay in touch with my son.”

- Donita Ogletree



“There were often instances where he would call me but I could not afford to answer. He would get discouraged, thinking I didn’t want to talk to him...”

- Nisq’Atawi Shuey, Klamath Falls



“Because I can’t afford it, my brother pays for the phone calls. That means when he’s calling me, he’s taking money away from buying basic necessities.”

- Charles Hayes



“Free phone calls would remove that stress and improve people’s morale, which would not only benefit AICs, but also their families and DOC staff.”

- Jim Jones, McMinville



“Family ties are very important for mental health, and it helps people who are incarcerated as well as their family members on the outside to know that there are people who love and support them.”

- Mary Kennedy



“If we did not have the ability to talk daily over the phone, I honestly don’t know if we would still have a relationship.”

- Chelsea Rosales, Portland



“Anything the State can do to keep families connected would change the lives of so many people.”

- Bernadette Williams



“If the purpose of incarceration is supposed to be rehabilitation, I don’t see the benefit of monetizing communication with loved ones.”

- Jason Jones



“I believe that maintaining connection with friends and family is also one of the most important steps towards successful reintegration into the outside world after release.”

- Austin Enoch



"I truly feel that my son could have processed his grief around his father's death in a much more healthy and effective way if we were able to spend more time talking with each other."

- Carla Sears, Chiloquin



“I am not able to pay for any communication. I do not even have enough money to send him a text message.”

- Donita Ogletree



"I need my husband in my life and our daughter needs her father in her life. Making prison phone calls free has the potential to change lives."

- Lindsey Caudle



“Rebuilding my relationship with my mother has been deeply meaningful for me, and I would hate for any family to be deprived of that opportunity. I strongly believe prison phone calls should be free.”

- Lacey Detzel



“Poverty should not stop anyone from connecting with family members and feeling that they are cared about.”

- Lauren Holtz



“We often had to space out our calls to ensure we weren’t overburdened financially. Otherwise, costs could reach \$300, \$400, or even \$500 per month.”

- Ben Ogeltree



“Charging money for phone calls just adds an additional barrier. It adds a barrier not only to staying in touch, but to successful rehabilitation.”

- Jason Jones



"I pray that Oregon lawmakers approve HB 3118. People need this. It is not just my family. It is everybody. Especially people with family members on fixed incomes. It really would be a godsend for prison phone calls to be free."

- Natalie Belles



“Unfortunately, the cost of phone calls has severely limited the amount of time we are able to talk. I am on a fixed income and my family does not have a lot of money”

- Austin Enoch



“My daughter’s relationship with her father has only been possible thanks to the phone. At this point, his voice is the only way she knows him.”

- Lindsey Caudle



“family members and friends on the outside haven’t done anything wrong, and yet it feels like we are being punished too”

- Karen Anderson



“People out here are struggling to survive. Offering free phone calls... cannot cost the state too much, and there is no telling how many lives, recoveries, and relationships it could save in the long run”

- Donita Ogletree



“Communication between a prisoner and their family is more precious and meaningful than most people can imagine. Just hearing your loved one’s voice can cause healing.”

- Carla Sears, Chiloquin

