

HB 3118

Keep Families Connected

The Need for Cost-Free Prison Communication

Oregon families pay over \$9 million annually to stay connected with incarcerated loved ones, making prison phone calls an overwhelming financial burden—especially for low-income and rural households. The high cost of communication isolates incarcerated individuals, severs critical family bonds, and creates barriers to successful rehabilitation and reentry.



HB 3118 — A Timely Opportunity for Reform

With new Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules taking effect in 2025, Oregon has a unique opportunity to act. These regulations will lower call rates and eliminate payments to agencies, allowing the state to renegotiate contracts and ensure calls become entirely cost-free. Oregon’s Bill of Rights for Children of Incarcerated Parents guarantees the right of children to see and speak with their parents. HB 3118 helps make that more of a reality and ensures that no one has to choose between paying for basic needs and speaking with their children and loved ones.

Investing in Public Safety and Community Well-Being

Ensuring cost-free prison communication is not just about fairness—it’s a smart investment in public safety and stronger communities. More than 90% of Oregon’s incarcerated population will return to the community, and research shows that maintaining family connections reduces recidivism, improves mental health, and enhances public safety by facilitating successful reentry. By removing financial barriers, Oregon can build a more just system that prioritizes rehabilitation, community stability, and long-term public safety.

The Keep Families Connected coalition is supported by the following organizations:

Catholic Community Services



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