



**Submitted to the House Committee on Judiciary  
February 19, 2025**

**Testimony in Support of HB 3118**

**By: Shannon Wight - Deputy Director of Partnership for Safety and Justice**

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair Chotzen, Vice-Chair Wallan, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 3118.

Partnership for Safety and Justice (PSJ) advocates for public safety policies that ensure accountability, equity, and healing for people convicted of crime, crime survivors, and the families and communities of both. For over 25 years, our work has promoted community and public safety with policies that keep families together, reduce racial disparities, and invest in communities across Oregon.

For many years, Oregonians have needed to pay to talk to their family members who are incarcerated in one of our state's institutions. Some families have spent thousands of dollars just to remain connected to those they haven't been able to regularly see in many years. Thousands of people are incarcerated in institutions that are far from where they are from, leaving families with few options to talk with their loved ones if they are unable to drive all the way across the state.

HB 3118 would ensure that phone calls between people who are incarcerated and their loved ones are free. This will remove a significant financial burden off the backs of family members who disproportionately have very low incomes.

But easing financial burden is not the only reason to make this policy decision. Ensuring free communication and keeping families connected is a [proven way](#) to increase an AICs chances of successfully reentering society after their incarceration ends, and improve outcomes for their children.

Oregon can follow the direction of states like Colorado, Connecticut, and Minnesota who have already taken this action. All Oregonians want safe, healthy, and thriving communities. Ensuring that people in Oregon's prisons are connected to their families will help us get there.