

May 23, 2016

The Honorable Thomas E. Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, Southwest  
Washington, District of Columbia 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

We write today to encourage you and your fellow Commissioners to reevaluate the FCC's regulations regarding contraband cellphones. States must have the flexibility and authority to eradicate this real and serious threat to the public safety in our states.

Correctional officers across the country work in an environment many will never see or fully understand in terms of threats to staff and public safety. Contraband cellphones in the hands of prisoners dramatically increase these threats to witnesses, the public, the officers, their families, and even other prisoners. The FCC should act to streamline regulatory review processes and allow states to implement cost-efficient technology in prisons, where the installation of such technology will not sacrifice the safety of the general public.

We understand that what works for one state may not work for another and what may be deemed inexpensive for one state may not be cost-efficient for another. Determinations of this kind on the state level – involving the weighing of options, the analysis of budgets, and the proposals of solutions to enhance public safety – are uniquely state functions that should not be impeded by outdated federal regulations and laws.

As long as there are prisons, there will always be contraband. In the case of cellphones, we believe this is one contraband issue we can solve, but we cannot do that until the FCC acts to allow us to develop the best solutions to secure our correctional institutions.

We look forward to working with you and the FCC on this important issue.

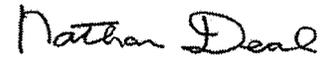
Sincerely,



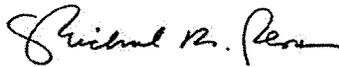
Governor Nikki Haley  
South Carolina



Governor Robert Bentley  
Alabama



Governor Nathan Deal  
Georgia



Governor Michael R. Pence  
Indiana



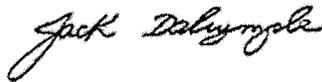
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North Dakota



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South Dakota



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