Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, 11-25-14

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FCC Mail Room

RE WC DOCKET NUMBER 12-375

This letter concerns the rates of intrastate calls within the Arizona Dept. of Corrections and Maricopa County Jail. The local and various rates for cities less than 30 miles away from my placements are so high that it creates a burden for me to call and talk to my children. I can call Alaska for almost 3X cheaper, and with a budget to live by and a future of possibly never coming home, these costs create such a hardship for my children's single mom, or myself who is in lockdown, for non-behavioral issues.

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Securus has denied credit/bill accounts, and has crazy account set-up fees, along with fees to pay one's bill! On the side that I can pre-pay for calls, instead of me receiving my money upon release, I have to pay a fee to receive my own money. The phone systems also regularly cut off calls, and we have no way to obtain refunds for their system's error!

If the FCC would lower all prison and jail phone call rates, I know that more families would accept intrastate calls. Plus, those family ties can help a person heal from behavior that sent him/her to jail in the first place! My call to my children, less than 30 miles from me is: $4.98 for 15 minutes, if they lived in Florence it would be $1.71 for 15 minutes. If I were at the Maricopa county Jail my calls would be around $3.50 for 12 minutes for a local, I do not call long distance! Those are over a day's wages, if one is blessed with a job, I am not!

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I beg the FCC to re-look at this issue to lower intra-state rates

and to allow the prison/inmate populations to no longer be taken advantage of by businesses who capitalize on captive audiences.

On a side note: The issues of paid video visitation is around the same issue! Too many jails, Maricopa County included, have seen the ability to make more money off inmates, and their families. A rate cap on that issue really needs to be looked into.

Sincerely,

Patrick Bearup 136226
ASPC-E-Browning 3-A-16
PO BOX 3400
Florence, AZ 85132-3400