

# EXHIBIT J

## CONSUMER PETITION TO LOWER THE COST OF CALLS FROM PRISON

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/petition/927213538> (last accessed 30 January 2010)



[petition overview](#) | [letter](#)

## Lower the cost of calls from Prison!

Target:

President Barack obama

Sponsored by:

[www.genpop.org](http://www.genpop.org)

With 2.2 million incarcerated in the USA, many of you already know how much it costs to accept a collect call from prison.

Prisons are filled disproportionately with people who live under the poverty line. Fathers of children, sons of mothers, sisters of brothers and husbands of wives. While we understand the necessity to have to punish the guilty, we disagree with the practice of charging so much for those guilty people to make a phone call home because that punishes the innocent family and loved ones of the incarcerated.

We are asking that President Obama help us get a per-call cap on phone calls from prison. A rate that even the poorest mother of an 18 year old caught with a bag of marijuana can afford.

Please, if you care about this issue, send this to as many people as you know.

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/3/lower-the-cost-of-calls-from-prison>

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those guilty people to make a phone call home because that punishes the innocent family and loved ones of the incarcerated.

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<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/3/lower-the-cost-of-calls-from-prison>

We the undersigned are asking that you put a per-call price cap on collect calls from correctional institutions. The reason behind this is that statistics show a lot of the incarcerated belong to families that live below the poverty line or close to it. These people cannot afford the rates that are being charged each time their incarcerated family member or loved one calls. While we recognize the importance of punishing crime, we do not see any reason why the innocent family members and loved ones of the incarcerated should be punished for wanting to stay in contact with those who may be incarcerated, but who are still important to them. These people include poor mothers who's sons are locked up for non-violent possession charges, wives who have become single mothers wanting their children to grow up knowing their fathers' voice. We are talking about law-abiding Americans, we are talking about innocent human beings. There is no good reason why any of these people should be paying upwards of \$20 per call to speak to someone important to them.

We the undersigned recognize your commitment to human rights, to civil rights. In one week as president, you have already made it abundantly clear that you will not put up with human rights abuses on your watch. Here is a way to make sure the families and loved ones of 2.2 million incarcerated Americans have their rights taken into consideration, too.

Congratulations on winning the presidency, and thank you so much for your time. We are certain you will do the right thing.

Signature goal: 2,000

[1,066 signatures!](#) [30 January 2010]

We signed the "Lower the cost of calls from Prison!" petition!

# 1,066:

12:19 pm PST, Jan 30, Name not displayed, Oregon

Family is one of the biggest factors in prisoners not returning to prison. So they should be able to call family members and support friends to insure that they stand a better chance of not returning. With the prices so high family and friends can't afford to speak to inmates as often as needed to keep the family and friends that are so important in the rehabilitation. And by cutting off friends and family the only relationships inmates have by the time they are released are those they made in prison, which increases inmates return to the life style that got them there in the first place.

# 1,065:

11:22 pm PST, Jan 29, Teresa Weinbeck, Oregon

Over millions of loved ones are in prison. That means there are over millions of others that need to hear from these loved ones. Yes some can right letters but that is nothing compared to hearing their voice. One of the missions of the prison system is to rehabilitate these prisoners, and one step to rehabilitaion is improving family relationships. And the men and wornen that are in prison in the U.S. need the support of their families! It is encouraged that they talk and continue to enhance their relationship with their family so why charge so much for something that is needed. We are all human who need contact with those that we love, and the chances of rehabilitaion are much higher if the inmates have strong connections with their loved ones. Some people just can't afford to pay for the phone calls coming from their loved ones who are in need of support. This can significantly harm any relationship. Please help to lower these costs!

# 1,064:

7:05 am PST, Jan 29, Name not displayed, India

Gpmgd

# 1,063:

8:36 pm PST, Jan 28, Name not displayed, California

# 1,062:

12:29 pm PST, Jan 28, Name not displayed, Mississippi

For 25.00 through Global Tel Link we get to talk to our loved one 3 calls for 10 minutes.

# 1,061:

1:00 pm PST, Jan 27, Catherine Sechler, Pennsylvania

# 1,060:

10:13 pm PST, Jan 25, Name not displayed, Tennessee

# 1,059:

7:01 pm PST, Jan 25, Name not displayed, Indiana

# 1,058:

6:37 pm PST, Jan 25, Rob amereno Moreno, Arizona

# 1,057:

1:50 pm PST, Jan 22, Name not displayed, Georgia

I would like to petition against charging jail calls because communicating is very importants on this earth and we would like to be able to communicate with people we love.

# 1,056:

11:29 am PST, Jan 19, Name not displayed, New York

Collect calls should be lower.

# 1,055:

10:26 am PST, Jan 16, Name not displayed, Maine

# 1,054:

11:29 am PST, Jan 14, Mike Smith, California

My Name is Mike Smith. Letter for petition of CA. Prisons Abuse My Fiance is incarcerated at Santa Rita in Alameda CA. I am the only contact she has, as she is from Asia. All their calls must be collect through Global Tel. Global Tel charges outrageous fees for her to call me collect. On Jan. 09 2010 I put \$110 USD on their account so she could call me. She called the next evening and the call was dropped within 1 min. The connection fee was and is always charged regardless. She called back 3 times and the calls were all dropped within 2 mins. She called me again before 8;AM the next morning and we were talking 4 mins before the call was dropped. In 5 calls we were able to actually talk for 5 mins. My \$110 USD was depleted entirely. I called

Global Tel time after time and they never answered. I left 20 or more messages. When I finally reached someone, I had to place another \$70 USD on the account. I bought several pay as you go cell phones with a local number same as the jail to reduce the fees, but it did not. The \$70 was also depleted with 40 mins of talk. This is insane and such a mockery of what America says it stands for. This must be dealt with asap. Also my fiance tells me they are never allowed to go in an outside yard. They are forced to wear used panties and bras. She is small and the panties were 4 times to big and were stained. This is horrific, and a major health issue, as staph infections, herpes, Hepatitis and other infectious disease can not be removed with washing alone. And they are given no health care when sick. She told me of hearing several women cry at night with teeth and other painful infections and were not given any care whatsoever. Most everyone in her housing in number 25# is sick with fever and throat infections. These people deserve to be taken care of. If we can not afford to do so then we should stop arresting non violent offenders. Mike Smith Email; [contact@travelersdigest.com](mailto:contact@travelersdigest.com)

# 1,053:

6:25 pm PST, Jan 13, Gracie Dueker, Missouri

I support this!

# 1,052:

8:17 am PST, Jan 12, JACQUELONE THORNTON, Michigan

ALLOW PRISONERS ACCESS TO LOW COST CELL PHONES.

# 1,051:

7:22 pm PST, Jan 10, Name not displayed, Arizona

MY BOYFRIEND IS IN JAIL AND I AM CURRENTLY UNEMPLOYED. WITH THE CALLS PRICED UP TO \$5.00 FOR 15 MINUTE CALLS, I CANT AFFORD TO PAY THEM. SOMETIMES WE GO WEEKS WITHOUT TALKING TO EACH OTHER BECAUSE OF THE PRICE. PLEASE, EITHER MAKE THE CALLS LONGER, OR LOWER THE COST. THERE ARE PEOPLE OUT THERE THAT CANT TALK TO THERE LOVED ONES BECAUSE OF ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

# 1,050:

4:47 pm PST, Jan 8, Elizabeth Amberg, Louisiana

Helping son with appeals to decrease a 20 year sentence for a non-violent offense with mitigating circumstances of PTSD, brain injury and medication prescribed. Phone calls are 15 minutes with 2 minutes interruptions, cost \$5.00 per call. If call is made after 10:45PM a discount is given, however, that is only on weekends. The calls are limited to 30 calls per month. This appeal is important as many errors were made in trial and the appellate courts seem to be sweeping the dispositive issues and reasons for their decision (or their law clerks decisions) into the trap door of lost state appeals.

# 1,049:

2:27 pm PST, Jan 8, Name not displayed, Massachusetts

I can not believe how much 15minutes costs. I live in mass and my loved one is in jail in NH and they charged me \$14.59 for 15minutes. That is an out rage! We are on a very very fixed income as most are in todays economy and It's the most sorry but retarded and ridiculous price for a mere 15minutes. This needs to stop!

# 1,048:

5:31 pm PST, Jan 7, Kelsey Erwin, California

# 1,047:

2:38 pm PST, Jan 7, Erica WOMACHKA, California

# 1,046:

4:16 am PST, Jan 7, Brian Marcella, California

Please consider the cost to the families, at the least allow them a reduced rate! The one thing left is Family which everyone needs!

# 1,045:

6:05 pm PST, Jan 6, S. Cody, California

# 1,044:

7:31 pm PST, Jan 5, Mrs Owens, Indiana

# 1,043:

7:02 pm PST, Jan 4, Name not displayed, New York

# 1,042:

12:43 pm PST, Jan 4, Suzanne Carolyn Cyr Cyr, California

BECAUSE HE IS SO FAR AWAY i CAN'T VISIT HIM SO...I have been getting calls everyday .....from my friend IN SACRAMENTO MAIN JAIL who has mental illness, and his dad had it, his sister, his dad's mom also had it, ..... and he and I benifit from this 15 minute call, .....it cost me 100.00 a month, well it changed to 14.00 a call, without notice, THAT IS 400.00 A MONTH. so I had no way to budget this in, It cost me to lose my phone, I now have the magic jack and it costs \$50.00 for 8 calls, or 120 minutes, but I had to get a local number to the jail, others have gotten cell phones local to the jail or prison, but then my kids can't call home from school because my area code is long distance, and it is hard to get work cus people think I live in Sacramento. My friend in jail will be 55 years old this year and is in bad health, they need to operate on him,..... I can't send him money for extra healthy food because there is none available and my phone bill is too high,..... so I don't call any more and this makes him have anxiety attacks because he feels that there is some other reason I am not accepting his calls, THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION. STRESS IS LINKED TO CANCER AND HEART DISEASE,

# 1,041:

5:56 am PST, Jan 4, Brandy Richardson, Indiana

my husband is incarcerated in new castle indiana we are expecting and i might have cancer and he is stressing im stressing please we need to be able to talk and afford the costs for our loved ones

# 1,040:

1:13 am PST, Jan 4, Monique Zamarron, California

# 1,039:

9:15 pm PST, Jan 3, Brittany Freeman, Ohio

i pay \$5.93 per call, + state tax. :( i miss my fiance so much....it is so hard to go a whole week between calls just because i cant afford it. especially when he is so far away and it is all we have.

:( :( :(

# 1,038:

6:00 pm PST, Jan 2, Name not displayed, California

My twin brother and myself were as close as webbed toes, I mean we did everything together, we even lived together, so I'm use to talking to him all day everyday. But with these collect call charges and myself outta work due to a work injury I can barely talk to him, maybe once or twice a week :-( and that's the hardest part of us being forced to be apart due to him being in jail. It would help him and myself out greatly if they can lower the rates to reasonable pricing, and as everyone knows it's hard on everyone who has a loved one in jail but the phone bill charges

make it real hard and basically impossible for us to keep in touch and help each other through these rough and hard times. SO PLEASE LOWER THE COLLECT CALL RATES FOR THE FAMILIES AND LOVED ONE OF THOSE WHO ARE INCARCERATED!!!!!!

# 1,037:

5:27 am PST, Jan 2, Jennifer Parker, Kansas

I know that a lot of these inmates have done things wrong and they are serving their time for those things. But there are families, friends and people out here that still love them no matter what! I'm not sure if anyone of you know what it feels like to be alone, or to feel that way, even being out here around all "our people" I know one thing I would not be going as crazy and he wouldn't be going as crazy if my loved one could just hear their voice just to stay sane!

# 1,036:

3:51 pm PST, Jan 1, Name not displayed, Utah

I am signing this bc it is true when our loved ones are placed in a jail or prison its hard enough to provide for the family now that the other half is now gone. I am a single mother and I try to make ends meet but with the costs of calls to at least let my little one speak with his father the costs of the calls dont help at ALL> I hope this helps and just opens our window to let you see in in to the difficulty of costs for the calls.

# 1,035:

4:51 pm PST, Dec 31, Linda Crowell, California

The real cost of maintaining family ties is the burden of the family or loved one of those incarcerated.... The system is always making money off them.

# 1,034:

10:14 am PST, Dec 30, Antonia Dasher, Florida

I truly think all costs for inmates to call collect should be lowered because it's crazy how much I spend within one month.

# 1,033:

10:25 am PST, Dec 28, CARLA SUZANNE QUALLS, California

WHY DO WE THE FAMILY OF INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS GET PUNISHED BY HAVING TO PAY SUCH RIDICULOUS PRICES FOR COLLECT CALLS FROM OUR LOVED ONES. THIS IS HIGHWAY ROBBERY. SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE ABOUT THIS AND RIGHT AWAY.

# 1,032:

3:05 pm PST, Dec 26, Linda Cook, Mississippi

I feel it is a great hardship for families of inmates to be charged such expensive rates. We feel we are being punished unfairly. I want to be able to talk to my loved one but when you live on a limited income it is hard.

# 1,031:

12:06 pm PST, Dec 25, Marvin Tisdale, South Carolina

# 1,030:

1:42 am PST, Dec 25, Cherie Chandler, California

# 1,029:

4:15 pm PST, Dec 24, Name not displayed, New Jersey

We need to reduce the cost of phone call for inmates to their family. It is completely indecent to charge inmates higher rates than the general population. This is especially true for Juvenile Detention Center. If we are really trying to rehabilitate our kids, the first thing we need to do is to keep the connection with their families!

# 1,028:

2:55 pm PST, Dec 24, Nequana Durham, Indiana

# 1,027:

12:05 pm PST, Dec 23, Name not displayed, California

I can only talk to my son a couple of times a month. I have to pay \$108.00 each month and if I can't pay it, we don't talk. It's been 6 months now due to the recession. Each call is 17.00 plus a connection fee and less than 15 minutes, so the 108.00 is used up fast. Yes I want to see it lowered. Please be reasonable to the families of the incarcerated.

# 1,026:

7:32 am PST, Dec 20, Tamera Sutton, Oklahoma

Please President Obama, We need your help. I know that most of the families that are receiving collect calls from prison to talk to their family members are struggling just like me. Please again help us to put a per call cap on phone calls

# 1,025:

10:07 am PST, Dec 18, Crystal Baldwin, Alabama

# 1,024:

8:44 pm PST, Dec 12, Celeste Lopez, California

The prices are outrageous and the way they don't even let you know when there going to cut you off is so cruel. I believe the rates should be lower a lot.

# 1,023:

6:48 pm PST, Dec 12, Sherry Zeinner, Indiana

Please help us to be able to share our love with our families. They need it and we deserve it!

# 1,022:

6:36 am PST, Dec 10, Name not displayed, Michigan

# 1,021:

8:22 pm PST, Dec 9, Name not displayed, Iowa

my fiancée of 2 months was recently incarcerated. I am pregnant and expecting my first it outrages me the amount of money it costs for him to make sure I'm OK please help us fix this

# 1,020:

3:47 pm PST, Dec 9, Weldon Thomas, Louisiana

My son is in prison and cost \$42 for 15 minutes...so I will not let him call..therefore the state loses that money from the call...when they could get something.

# 1,019:

1:19 pm PST, Dec 9, Tiffany Miller, Ohio

# 1,018:

8:29 pm PST, Dec 6, CHRISTINA LEMOS, New Mexico

I think the price of collect calls from inmates is ridiculous...I have family incarcerated and it's hard to only get a couple of calls due to the high cost..They should just sell cheap calling cards to inmates, or if they have good behavior then give them one..I am a tax payer and I think they should get the same respect as other people.

# 1,017:

10:45 am PST, Dec 6, David Schreiber, New York

Please stop the price gouging on this service. It's 2010 and it should not cost so much to place a call. In my case, the Facility is only a few miles away yet it costs less for me to call China!

# 1,016:

7:30 pm PST, Dec 5, Achana Brown, Ohio

I have 4 kids and its hard that the dad will be away for about 4 years and hes so far away and the calls are a trip it self

# 1,015:

12:08 pm PST, Dec 5, Aspen Chandler-Manzanares, Colorado

Calls cost to much and we all want it lowered so our loved ones in prison and the jails can contact us. Thanks

# 1,014:

3:00 pm PST, Dec 4, Reatha Smith, Illinois

# 1,013:

9:05 pm PST, Dec 2, Name not displayed, New Hampshire

i spend so much money and we can only talk for a few days out of the week. and then on top of that i have to pay extra fees to even put money on the phone in the first place.

# 1,012:

7:19 pm PST, Dec 2, Chelsea Horton, Massachusetts

I pay \$10 for a 20 min Call From my Fiance. He is in Strafford County DOC in Dover Nh and I have a Concord NH Number So i am charged a "local long distance fee"..i pay like 50 cents a MIN!!!! 266.00\$ bill to talk once a day for a month. I am VERY low income and cannot afford to talk to him. This only Punishes Me and his 3 little boys at home who miss their dad enough as it is... These phone companies are Robbin the Families of these inmates and it needs to STOP

# 1,011:

3:48 pm PST, Nov 25, Name not displayed, New York

exploit the poor and underprivileged and there family, cut there ties to the outside world, its a disgrace this overcharging. elizabeth, long island

# 1,010:

6:38 pm PST, Nov 23, Denise Straughan, Georgia

Its a sad situation when the one that you love is locked away in a prison cell far from you. The only thing that you have are the letters and phone calls and yet when you get the phone bill it is so high that you are forced to tell your loved one to limit the phone calls. It is so wonderful to hear that voice on the other end and know that when you hear them you can truly tell from the sound of their voice if they are alright or not. I urge you to think about the kickbacks that the prison system gets from these phone calls at the expense of the families of the inmates.

# 1,009:

7:41 pm PST, Nov 20, Brian Stempien, Arizona

Its really hard for kids with incarcerated parents and not being able to talk with their parents on the phone but once or twice a month due to the cost. Unfortunatly families on the outside feel as if the ones who are also being punished.

# 1,008:

5:33 pm PST, Nov 18, Name not displayed, Ohio

i think its rediculous how much phone calls are, especially if the person is so far away its hard to go see them...you never get a chance to speak to them!!

# 1,007:

10:08 am PST, Nov 18, Tracy Carfagna, Georgia

My younger brother has been locked up for going on 10 years now and can't call his mother b/c she can't afford to pay the money it cost for 1 30 minute phone call.

# 1,006:

6:33 am PST, Nov 17, Lisa Wysong, California

# 1,005:

2:07 pm PST, Nov 16, MARYCELA GOMEZ, California

President Obama help us get a per-call cap on phone calls from prison. Mr. President: "YES U CAN"

# 1,004:

1:32 pm PST, Nov 12, Christy Chavez, New Mexico

Money on the phone, or money on their books or in the gas tank for visits. The price of calls is very expensive and it causes lack of communication between family and friends because most people simply cant pay for it.

# 1,003:

3:28 am PST, Nov 11, Vicki Lloyd, Virginia

the price of the calls are crazy you have to decide between the phone or sendin your man money.

# 1,002:

8:09 pm PST, Nov 10, Amber Trotman, Pennsylvania

# 1,001:



3:00 pm PST, Nov 10, Americas Wrongfully Convicted, Texas

There are a lot of things that the prison system should not charge so much for. Phone calls, food and any other special needs since the familys are burdened with having to buy or pay for them since the inmate cannot. The prison system punishes more than just the inmates including wrongfully convicted inmates and family members.

# 1000:

Nov 9, 2009, Shauna Greene, Florida

# 999:

Nov 9, 2009, Molly Ditmore, California

When a family member is incarcerated, the remaining members are left to scramble to pay the pills. Expensive phone calls to prisons are most unfair to the children and family members who committed no crime.

# 998:

Nov 9, 2009, Piper Kerman, New York

# 997:

Nov 7, 2009, Genie Foster, Tennessee

Please do something about this!!

# 996:

Nov 7, 2009, Chris Martinez, Michigan

The cost of a phone call from an inmate is too high during these tough economic hardships or what is still a recession. I don't believe nobody is being fooled by numbers and hidden charges anymore, so something has to change and soon.

# 995:

Nov 7, 2009, Stephen Bridgins, Indiana

# 994:

Nov 6, 2009, Michelle Bridgins, South Dakota

My husband was recently incarcerated, and i am left to raise our special needs son all alone. I am not proud of my husbands action, but he is my husband and he is my sons father, so why make it difficulter to stay in touch. i am having a hard enough time as it is, because i too and disabled.

# 993:

Nov 6, 2009, Cathy Heard, Canada

Have a heart and help these families deal with this!

# 992:

Nov 6, 2009, Pete Brook, Washington

# 991:

Nov 6, 2009, Anonymous, Colorado

I am a widowed mother of an inmate. I am on a fixed income. My son is over 300 miles from home so visits are few and far between. The phone is our main means of communication but the phone calls are so expensive that it is a financial burden to talk to him. he system effectively isolates inmates from their family and wonders why it is so difficult to rehabilitate them.

# 990:

Nov 5, 2009, Raejeana Mckinzie, Colorado

# 989:

Nov 2, 2009, April Ray, Tennessee

# 988:

Oct 31, 2009, Anonymous, Kansas

It's hard if your trying to support a 9 month old to be able to talk to the dad in jail. Your trying to take care of yourself and the little one and pay all the bills with no help. You could at least do us this favor to lower the cost or just let them be free. What harm could that do us?

# 987:

Oct 28, 2009, Alissa Clinebell, Ohio

I really appreciate that someone is trying to do this. Times are really hard right now and I am a mother of three small boys. I dont at all agree with why their father is in prison and I am a firm believer in paying for your crime however I do not believe that me or his children should have to pay while he is there just to stay in touch with him. And I refuse to change my childrens mind about their father they love him more than anything in the world so if there was a cheaper way for them to talk to him that would be the BEST thing for me right now. Again please help and thank you for the effort. A struggling mother!

# 986:

Oct 24, 2009, Mara Alexander, California

My son has been incarcerated for almost 10 years. He's housed in a prison that is a 5 hour drive (each way). I'm fighting to keep a roof over my own head, and can't afford to visit him more than

2-3 times a year. GTL has a monopoly on inmate calls, and is one of the most inept and corrupt companies I've ever dealt with. They have no motive to change because after all...where are we going to go? We have no choice but to accept their insane terms, or risk not speaking to our loved ones. Even then home numbers are routinely blocked for no reason. My son is paying for his crime...so why is his entire family ALSO being held hostage by the unethical and arbitrary practices of one greedy company?

# 985:

Oct 22, 2009, Anonymous, Texas

# 984:

Oct 22, 2009, Julie Park, New York

With high phone bills, that only makes communication with our loved ones all the more harder. The government/prison system needs to find a better way to make money. This is terrible.

# 983:

Oct 21, 2009, Christen Brown, Kentucky

# 982:

Oct 20, 2009, Janeen Moody, Ohio

Please do something to reduce the cost of calls. For me to talk to my brother through Evercom in Florida it is 21.00 for 15 minutes. how does someone who is poor afford this. I think the prison system is getting paid for using this service. a great dis service to families.

# 981:

Oct 16, 2009, Kimberly Brickhouse, Virginia

I don't think it's fair to the loved ones to have to pay such high prices to be able to talk to an inmate it's like you are punishing us too! and thats just wrong!

# 980:

Oct 15, 2009, Ashley Moore, North Carolina

We have a 9 week old baby that my fiance has never seen or heard cry. I cant afford the phone calls right now because they are way to expensive. \$5 for 10 minutes. All three of us cry every night. It would be nice to hear his voice before we all say goodnight. That would make this time so much easier for me. Why do we all get punished! Esp my baby?

# 979:

Oct 15, 2009, Lisa Whitaker, Pennsylvania

most folks in prison are from middle to low income family homes and the cost of calls for loved one's to speak to their incarcerated family members is enough to break the bank. Because family members broke the law why should innocent law abiding relatives have to be robbed and punished with astronomical prices related to phone communication.....

# 978:

Oct 14, 2009, Kathy Kinney, Kansas

# 977:

Oct 14, 2009, Susan Hall, Washington

Although the cost of the phone calls are high. It's the fact that my son is innocent and serving a 6 yr sentence of a crime that he did not commit that is most hurtful for him and his family. I told him to believe in the system and the system put him in prison. I cannot begin to tell you how this has effected our family.

# 976:

Oct 12, 2009, Xqhvysk Xqhvysk, Uganda

Lijm27 rvozfqwckbkc, [url=<http://sexdrznspssf.com/>]sexdrznspssf[/url],  
[link=<http://izzuzdltpcei.com/>]izzuzdltpcei[/link], <http://vlndbmmaskzj.com/>

# 975:

Oct 12, 2009, Erin Kennedy, Indiana

The entire state of Indiana is serviced by one telecommunications providor for all DOC pay phones. The fees are excessive, resolving issues with calls nearly impossible, and they charge a fee of \$6.95 to make a payment to your account! Since May of this year I have spent over \$700.00 to recieve calls from my son. Please find a way to provide fair and reasonable rates to families of inmates. Thank you.

# 974:

Oct 11, 2009, Susan Chandler, Florida

# 973:

Oct 11, 2009, Elaine Jealous of him, California

it seems prisons are a good way to bargain slave labor and then these slaves in turn become a great burden on the financially stressed families of these said prisoners, Sure is sad. Wasn't Jesus in prison?

# 972:

Oct 10, 2009, Trevor B, Canada

i think lower price for calls is a good way to go

# 971:

Oct 9, 2009, Catherine Cyr, Pennsylvania

# 970:

Oct 9, 2009, Charles Hensley, Tennessee

My son in jail and for a 12 min call it cost me over 2.00 and this is a local call. it should not be over 0.75 per call

# 968:

Oct 1, 2009, Anonymous, California

my son is going to prision and is to expensive to pay for collect calls, especially when you don't make enough money.

# 967:

Sep 30, 2009, Dixianne Hawks, California

It's really sick to deprive troubled people of connections to home, just so greedy people can make money on someone else's misfortune and yes, illness. Connections help people recover and do better on the outside. The prison system is not about helping these unfortunate people it is about making sure they come back to prison so they can have job security.

# 966:

Sep 30, 2009, Elaine Wang, California

# 965:

Sep 28, 2009, Mindy Winer, Pennsylvania

My son whom is incarcerated in camp hill,cant afford to call home because of the high prices,It would do wonders if this petition does help.God Bless

# 964:

Sep 28, 2009, Tammy Marquardt, Canada

I've been on the inside and the expence to be able to call from the inside is insane and doesn't help the rehabilitation of inmates. Not everyone can afford calls from prison.

# 963:

Sep 27, 2009, Lisa Raville, Colorado

# 962:

Sep 26, 2009, Barbara Naso, New York

The fact that I am on a fixed income warrants me to urge you to take the necessary measures to lower the cost of my nephew calling me collect from an Arizona prison. Because of distance, this is our only extremely expensive way of communicating for 15 minutes I am confident that because my nephew is able to speak with his family members on a regular basis helps him cope with being incarcerated for a crime he did not commit. It allows us a way of communicating all that is being done to help him win his freedom

# 961:

Sep 23, 2009, Christina Dinsmore, New York

# 960:

Sep 23, 2009, Rebecca Keeton, Ohio

# 959:

Sep 22, 2009, Anonymous, Ohio

My husband is in jail and it cost 7.21 per 20 minute call. The lines are almost always staticy and consistantly disconnect. There customer services reps speak broken english and offer no help ... if you can even get a hold of them. EVERCOM is ripping people off.

# 958:

Sep 22, 2009, Michael Ainslie, California

Repeating Michelle's comment: Statistics prove that those incarcerated are more likely to leave prison and become solid citizens if they maintain contact with their loved ones while in prison. Why are the prisons then making it more difficult?

# 957:

Sep 21, 2009, Maria Spears, California

# 956:

Sep 21, 2009, Doris Hamilton, Texas

seriously flawed and needs help. Offenders need to be able to speak with family without family being punished with extreme telephone costs.

# 955:

Sep 21, 2009, Michelle Ravell, Nevada

Statistics prove that those incarcerated are more likely to leave prison and become solid citizens if they maintain contact with their loved ones while in prison. Why are the prisons then making it more difficult?

# 954:

Sep 20, 2009, STEPHANIE DAVIS, Louisiana

YES I THINK THAT COLLECT IS TO HIGH THE PRISONER CAN'T PAY THE BILL SO WHY HURT THE FAMILY

# 953:

Sep 20, 2009, Ed Brody, Arizona

# 952:

Sep 18, 2009, Kristen Potter, Missouri

# 951:

Sep 18, 2009, Giselle Gerhart, Pennsylvania

GISELLE GERHART

# 950:

Sep 15, 2009, Laquita Gipson, Nevada

# 949:

Sep 15, 2009, Mark Taylor, Florida

# 948:

Sep 15, 2009, Steven Cowles, Florida

# 947:

Sep 15, 2009, Michael Smith, Florida

# 946:

Sep 15, 2009, Valerie Harrison, Florida

My boyfriend has been in the Broward County jail for two years on a no bond hold. Our system is supposed to be innocent until proven guilty, and yet I have to pay \$2.53 for a local call, regardless of length. The phones disconnect all the time and no reimbursements are made. The costs are crippling.

# 945:

Sep 15, 2009, Katelyn F, New Jersey

# 944:

Sep 14, 2009, Anonymous, Missouri

# 943:

Sep 13, 2009, Sharon Norris, Kansas

I have a daughter who will be going into the system. I will have her two little girls. They should be able to talk to their Mom. I can't afford the collect phone calls at the price they are. Please help

# 942:

Sep 13, 2009, Samantha McEachin, Iowa

Samantha McEachin, Dakota Smith, BrookLynn McEachin, Dawson McEachin

# 941:

Sep 13, 2009, Sandra Johnson Poulin, Kansas

# 940:

Sep 13, 2009, Anonymous, Indiana

Please do away with the excessive cost of prison phone calls, you are hurting the ones who can least afford it!

# 939:

Sep 13, 2009, Anonymous, Georgia

Price fixing, commission on calls, this should all be investigated.

# 938:

Sep 12, 2009, Manny Cuellar, Texas

# 937:

Sep 12, 2009, Sabine Wuebben, Germany

# 936:

Sep 10, 2009, CAROL RYALS, North Carolina

# 935:

Sep 8, 2009, Anonymous, Indiana

Working a minimum wage job and paying for costly prison phone calls is not very easy

# 934:  
Sep 8, 2009, Stephanie Rodriguez, Illinois

# 933:  
Sep 8, 2009, Anonymous, California

# 932:  
Sep 7, 2009, Anonymous, Germany

# 931:  
Sep 7, 2009, Ovidio Pena, Michigan

# 930:  
Sep 6, 2009, Imelda Molina, Michigan

# 929:  
Sep 6, 2009, Not. W. H. O., Canada  
And while we are at it, Thou shall not kill. help support the Innocence Project. no conflict of interest to declare

# 928:  
Sep 5, 2009, Carol Miller, North Carolina  
I have to take collect telephone calls from my son in prison and the rates are high. No need of that. Other than visitations, the prisoners have no other means of contacting their family and friends. Look into people who are wrongfully imprisoned like my son. Have the proof but no money to pay for a lawyer and that goes for the calls from my son.

# 927:  
Sep 3, 2009, Anonymous, Virginia  
I have a loved that's been in prison since 2004 and like others the cost of calls were too high and my phone has been disconnected for like 2 years .I am on disability and can't get the bill paid and have no phone to receive calls. I miss talking to my love one and it's not helping him while being incarcerated and nobody to talk to. I couldn't visit either due to him being so far away from home. I don't understand why the high cost and why they have to be so far away from home. It's a punishment on families as well as the inmate. I say we need some control on the phone issues also like yesterday. I support everyone here that has a loved one in the system. We shouldn't be punished and not be able to afford to talk to our loved ones. Thanks to all

# 926:  
Sep 2, 2009, Linda Ledyard, Florida  
Please the cost is crazy

# 925:  
Sep 2, 2009, Anonymous, California  
It's called KICKBACK. Money is kicked back to the prison from the provider. The provider who

offers the largest kickback will be given the phone contract. It's a dirty shameful practice that goes on in a lot of businesses throughout the US all the way up through government contracts. A "commission" is due to a salesperson that worked a client to get a sale. mostly honest. A "finder's fee" involves no work only an acquaintance or two to put a deal together. (lawyers only allow "finder's fees" among themselves. A non-lawyer cannot hook you up with a lawyer and expect a finder's fee, not legally anyway) It then becomes a "kickback" Not legal. But kickbacks go all the time. It may be in the form of cash. Quite often it is in the form of some amazing perks offered to the person who actually makes the decision to hire the provider. Extravagant trips, luxurious gifts. A prison contract is HUGE business. And let's not forget the other providers to prisons: quarterly packages! BIG BIG money. The more we have incarcerated the bigger the business! Our prisoners are commodities of themselves. Each and every one on them is worth a huge amount of potential business in one form or another. From their shoes & clothes to their meals to their guards, facilities, ad nauseum. Tough on crime means more prisoners means more potential business. BIG business is for big prisons. Why? BIG profits.

# 924:

Sep 2, 2009, Rosalind Burbank Joseph, New York

# 923:

Sep 2, 2009, Jessika Westin, Sweden

# 922:

Sep 2, 2009, Elaine Tyler, United Kingdom

# 921:

Sep 1, 2009, David Barmore, Florida

As a telecommunications worker I daily see the terrible cost to poor, mostly black families. Grandmothers go without food or medicine to pay thousand dollar phone bills. Mothers, brothers and sisters lose their phone service to high bills. Children often lose their Nickelodeon. The end result mirrors the sale of young blacks to other Plantations before the Civil War.. Eventually the family contact is lost, the hope is lost, the sense of responsibility and belonging is lost and , the sense of family is torn apart. The task of rebuilding the Black American community becomes much more difficult.

# 920:

Aug 31, 2009, Monica Romo, New York

Please, help reduce the calls from prison so we could be able to talk to our loved ones without worrying about a block on the phone due to an expensive bill. We greatly appreciate all whom are concerned in this matter. Thank You, Monica Romo

# 919:

Aug 29, 2009, Sue Marsey, Ohio

I have a son in prison and the charge for a phone call is outrageous. He calls me on a regular base because I have his son once a week and every other week end. I hope something can be do about these high charges. I love my son. I take his son every other week to see his dadf it is about

an hour drive from her but in the mean time I like taking to him on the phone. My bills are pretty high. I really can't afford them but he is my son.

# 918:

Aug 29, 2009, Anonymous, California

I have not been able to get calls for years due to the high cost and someone charging calls in my name at the cost of \$1,300.

# 917:

Aug 29, 2009, Kim Carroll, Arizona

# 915:

Aug 28, 2009, Ashley Bowman, Arkansas

my fiance' is going to a federal prison in louisiana..and some people like us really cant afford to pay outrages phone bills just to talk to our loved ones behind closed doors.

# 914:

Aug 27, 2009, Anonymous, California

# 913:

Aug 27, 2009, Cheryl M. Blake, California

# 912:

Aug 27, 2009, Reta Johnson, Texas

# 911:

Aug 27, 2009, Vanessa Miller, Pennsylvania

Remember!!!when ever the value of the USA dollar is seriously altered...the usual formula for the standard cost of living calulations ...Will Not express the actual unrepresented numbers...and from that point...without the nescessary adjustments...All the math is wrong. Think about it...There's a glitch in the application of services and fees: Equal service for equal payment of services provided...with compensation for unrepresented loss. The Vendor nor the contracted party cannot not obtain profit under misrepresentation of services and fees. Thank GOD for the Whistle Blowers...So...Tell me what I need to know.

# 910:

Aug 26, 2009, RUBY Childers, Kentucky

In the state of Ky. it is not fare to the ones who have loved ones in prison that are required to pay \$50.00 or more for 8 phone calls. This causes the ones on fixed income not to be able to talk to loved ones because they cant afford it. Also, \$6.95 is taken for who knows what fees. This is way to much when they only probably pay .10 a minute! Everyone knows the prisons are set up for discounts. So I think everyone should pick a month and NOT call loved ones and get this phone bills dropped.So, everyone ban together and lets get this phone bills at cost we can afford

# 909:

Aug 24, 2009, Karina Richardson, California  
Karina M. Richardson

# 908:

Aug 24, 2009, Sedinam Kinamo Christin Moyowasifza-Curry, California  
As a sister to many family members who have been in jail. I know first hand the high cost I have paid to stay in touch with my family members during their times in jail. For my having to pay a higher rate to just stay in touch was a punishment for loving my family members...

# 907:

Aug 24, 2009, Mandy Taylor, Mississippi

# 906:

Aug 24, 2009, Dina Vigil, California  
President Elect, I am signing this petition in hopes that you will allow the rates for Prison collect calls to be lowered. I believe this will help those at poverty level be able to speak and keep that the family unit in contact with each other, children as well with their incarcerated parent. Please consider this petition as I have considered my vote in favor of you as President of the United States. .

# 905:

Aug 24, 2009, Susy Russo, Australia  
I live in Australia, and to talk to my loved one I pay hundreds of dollars a month. It is something I have to work extra hours per month just so I can afford to chat for 15 minutes 2-3 times a week. It's just ridiculous!!! I feel so robbed of my money.

# 904:

Aug 23, 2009, Chris Aguilar, Illinois

# 903:

Aug 21, 2009, Anonymous, New York

# 902:

Aug 21, 2009, Amy Stevens, Louisiana  
This would be really great if this could happen.

# 901:

Aug 21, 2009, Anonymous, Alabama  
They need to do something about the cost, its practically robbery to cost that much for only 20 minutes at a time!

# 900:

Aug 20, 2009, John Simmonds, Canada

# 899:

Aug 20, 2009, Anonymous, Massachusetts  
It is wrong to allow these people ( inmate telephone system ) to take advantage this way. My 18

year old was in prison three months waiting trial ( later acquitted ), the cost of these phone calls is beyond belief. It is robbery.

# 898:

Aug 19, 2009, Dan Griffin, Florida

It is long past time to shut down these prison industrial complexes! No victim no crime. Return our "legal" system to a justice system. & fair fone rates, same outside as inside!

# 897:

Aug 19, 2009, Benjamin Phillips, South Carolina

This is ridiculous and should be illegal. Families should unite an sue!!

# 896:

Aug 19, 2009, Judy Patrick, Colorado

# 895:

Aug 19, 2009, Alex Goodall, United Kingdom

# 894:

Aug 19, 2009, Nicole Mungar, Canada

I support this petition 150%. :)

# 893:

Aug 19, 2009, Anonymous, Michigan

Michigan's extortion of the cost of phone calls for years was criminal - there has been a brief respite but they are revisiting raising the fees to \$10 or more for a 15 min phone call that the families of the prisoners have to bear the cost of the calls, despite suffering enormous hardships already, financial and otherwise. The prisoner benefits by frequent communication with loved ones as a positive reinforcement of the family love and support in the prisoners otherise negative world, the mothers and fathers, husbands and wives and children benefit by frequent communication and encouragement to the prisoners that they have the familial love and support that is so dire to their successful rehabilitation upon re-entry. The low \$\$ cost of calls insurers that the families and prisoners can communicate so much more often aiding in their positive adjustment as well as communicating societal changes and sharing information that will be beneficial ie., computer skills reinforcement necessary today, things these prisoners have no clue about in our fast paced changing tech world that will serve to frustrate them upon release rendering them feelings of stupidity and inadequacy...frequent DAILY OUTSIDE COMMUNICATION IS FUNDAMENTAL TO THEIR SUCCESS AND SOCIETIES BENEFIT AS WELL AS making for a safer prison environment for our guards and employees as well as society upon reentry. THE GOVERMENT NEEDS TO ENCOURAGE AND GIVE INCENTIVES TO STATES LIKE MICHIGAN TO BRING BACK GOOD TIME CREDITS TO THOSE SELECT PRISONERS WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED EXEMPLIARY INSTITUTIONAL CONDUCT WHICH ALSO SERVES AS A POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT FOR OTHERS AND A SAFER ENVIRONMENT. PLEASE URGE GOV GRANHOLM TO REINSTITUTE GOOD TIME CREDIT IN MICHIGAN OUR BIGGEST BUSINESS IN THIS STATE IS CORRECTIONS AND THAT IS SICKENING! AND DISGRACEFUL!!

# 892:

Aug 18, 2009, PAM ENGLISH, United Kingdom  
Pam English

# 891:

Aug 17, 2009, ROSE MONTELONGO, California

# 890:

Aug 17, 2009, Anonymous, Massachusetts  
Sheila Kubik

# 889:

Aug 15, 2009, Kelly Vigil, California

my husband is incarcerated for something that he did not do someone said the saw him do something that was untrue I have 5 children under the age of 6 yrs and they cant even talk to there dad because we cant afford the pgone bill....please someone do something about that...you already take everyhting from the prisoners and say that you want to help them but YOU DONT HELP THEM IT GETS WORST....at least let them talk to there family....

# 888:

Aug 15, 2009, Vincent Hill, Florida  
Please do the right thing. Help lower the cost of inmate phone calls.

# 887:

Aug 14, 2009, Js mom WEST, California

It's so scandalist the way they make the families pay for someone elses crimes through these astronomical phone charges. When my son was in county we got 4 calls for \$25.00 & were NEVER reimbered when a call was dropped or apologized to when rudely delt with by their phone operators, whom by the way act like your trying to steal \$\$ right out of their own pockets when all you want is what you've paid for. This is surely breaking some sort of poverty law if you ask me. Why do they get away with this? Don't they get enough from us when we put \$\$ on their books for the astronomically overpriced items they get at canteen? Enough is enough! There has to be some way around all this. Their system always finds a way....Why can't we? Just because the inmates have broken the laws doesn't mean their families have too, or that we should pay for it by overcharging us just to talk to them. Where does all of this extra \$ go anyway? Why aren't they putting it toward warning the families of the inmates of the diseases & the phsicological damage or sons & daughters bring back home with them because of the implorably unclean circumstances due to so much overcrowding & lack of medical care, or for their rehabilitation so these guys & gals don't have to come back? Are they going to cut that out too? Most of us,(family of the inmates),are already paying enough through our taxes already. Thank God I haven't kept track of all of the \$ I've spent on these crazy phone charges & the canteen prices or I'd probably shoot myself. Scratch that last remark or they'll lock me up to make up for the 40,000. inmates they have to release. Prison isn't about rehabilatation it's big business, duh. "Nuff said.

# 886:

Aug 13, 2009, David Lee, Florida

Our son is in jail for one year for a probation violation for a minor drug possession case ten years ago. We would love to know who is pocketing all the money being made for the millions of inmates families that are being charged unbelievable rates for phone calls. We can afford to do it, but I feel for the millions of families that are scrapping together the money to make a weekly call to their loved one. The people behind this scam should be serving time.

# 885:

Aug 12, 2009, Anonymous, Ohio

# 884:

Aug 11, 2009, Kevin Gallagher, Connecticut

Contact with family and friends is part of rehabilitation for a prisoner. Contact with the outside should be encouraged and not made economically unfeasible.

# 883:

Aug 11, 2009, Anonymous, Maryland

This is an outrageously absurd abuse of people already in pain, and a burden these families cannot afford. That a hypocrite system Capitalism is! Everything must be a source of high profit? Did we kill ethics and compassion forever?

# 882:

Aug 11, 2009, Tamar Thompson, California

to whom it may concern, Hello my name is Tamar Thompson and I am a single mother of two who is going to college to make life better for them. there father is an inmate and I can't afford for him to call at the rate of \$2.45 per call for 15 min. and say hi to his children. I hope you consider this plea Thank you T Thompson

# 881:

Aug 9, 2009, Anonymous, Idaho

\$50 bucks a day! what a rip off

# 880:

Aug 9, 2009, Jacqueline Jarez, California

Hello. I am a University student whos boyfriend is in Prison. I love him very much and I support him 100%. The most difficult part about our communication is that we have to limit our phone calls to once a week because the rates are so high and as a University student, I don't have much money to spare on collect calls. It would be so much easier if these collect call rates would be reasonable. Please, lower the cost. We aren't made out of money.

# 879:

Aug 9, 2009, Kelly S, Pennsylvania

Want someone on the outside to have to commit a crime to have to afford a call??

# 878:

Aug 9, 2009, Anonymous, Alabama

I have already paid about \$1,200.00 in phone calls and he has only been in prison 4 months that is ridiculous. The phone company the prison uses is globaltelink and it is charging 10.00 just to use their company then another 9.00 to talk. I'm spending 50.00 every 4 days I can't do it. My husband needs to talk to me now and I'm going broke haven't we suffered enough by them being there stop breaking us more over phone charges please help me thanks

# 877:

Aug 8, 2009, Bridgette Welch, Florida

I have several loved ones who are in Federal Prison and it's outrageous the cost for them to call.

# 876:

Aug 8, 2009, Christina Chung, Washington

# 875:

Aug 7, 2009, Anonymous, Mississippi

I was released in April, and I so know what it cost my family while I was locked up. It is painful enough for families to lose their loved ones to jail without having to pay with their finances as well. This is a great thing that you are doing. Thank you and God bless!!!

# 874:

Aug 5, 2009, Alejandra DeVillafuerte, Florida

# 873:

Aug 5, 2009, Cortez Melissa, Texas

# 872:

Aug 5, 2009, JOANNE AVALOS, California

I DO NOT EVEN ACCEPT ANY PHONE CALLS FROM MY BROTHER BECAUSE I CANNOT AFFORD THEM. BECAUSE OF OUTRAGEOUS CHARGES I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO TALK TO MY BROTHER FOR 18 YEARS. NEITHER HAS MY MOTHER, AND THAT IS VERY, VERY SAD..MY MOTHER CRIES EVERY DAY OF HER LIFE BECAUSE SHE JUST DREAMS OF ONE DAY HEARING HER SONS VOICE.... SOME DAY, WHEN COSTS GO DOWN...

# 871:

Aug 5, 2009, Anonymous, California

# 870:

Aug 5, 2009, Gaby Ramirez, California

# 869:

Aug 5, 2009, Yolanda Carranza, California

# 868:

Aug 5, 2009, Sylvia Rodriguez, California

Just because our loved ones made a mistake in life doesn't mean we should be punished for it! They are paying society back by doing their time and paying restitution fines!!!! Don't charge us!!!!!!

# 867:

Aug 4, 2009, Anonymous, California

It's a captive market--anticompetitive. No contract bidding to drive down rates. Family members have no choice but to pay the price. There is no technological premium that would drive up the cost. It's just a phone that only allows outbound collect calls.

# 866:

Aug 4, 2009, Anonymous, Wisconsin

Exploiting prisoners & families w/ unwarranted inflated call cost should be a crime in itself.

# 865:

Aug 3, 2009, Elizabeth Diese, Texas

I am a single mom to a two year little boy who loves to hear his daddy's voice on the phone because that is the only way he can know his daddy is still going to be there for him.

# 864:

Aug 3, 2009, Christy Swinford, Louisiana

# 863:

Aug 3, 2009, Theresa Armbruster, New Jersey

# 862:

Aug 3, 2009, Anita Lovett, Ohio

I feel the cost of prison calls should be alot cheaper.... Some families can't even afford to go to see their loved ones , so phone calls would be the next thing they need to stay in touch! make the calls cheaper!!

# 861:

Aug 3, 2009, Jennifer Lutterbie, Florida

# 860:

Aug 3, 2009, Anonymous, Florida

# 859:

Aug 3, 2009, Susanne Vaughn, California

# 858:

Aug 2, 2009, Neil Stamper, California

I have been in prison so I know how important it is to have the backing of your family, but for those inside that backing can only come from two sources -- visits and phone calls. Visits are highly restricted though, especially since most prisoners are sent to prisons that are far away

from their family; the cost of driving and staying in hotels just to visit their loved ones is astronomical in this withering economy. That leaves phone calls as the only option, as most families can not afford to go visit their loved ones in person. But the prison has a monopoly contract with the phone company that is contracted by the CCPOA/Prison system; it is just another way for the CCPOA to take our hard hearted money. Meanwhile they are creating intolerable prison conditions that are making prisoners suffer due to overcrowding. Of course they oppose any effort to correct the situation because that would damage their pocketbooks. They do not care about the pocketbooks of the general public so they oppose any effort to lower the cost of phone calls and are unwilling to compromise in any situation. I write these words as an ex-prisoner who has experienced all this first hand. It most stop and we must gather as one force to oppose the CCPOA and their cohorts. Ex-prisoners need to unite with those of the general public, our voices together are more then the CCPOA and we can make a difference.

# 857:

Aug 2, 2009, Dan Fauchier, California

# 856:

Aug 2, 2009, Rachel Contreras, California

Our loved ones are already being punished for crimes committed, why then are the families also punished by having to pay higher prices for staying in touch with our loved ones, by the prisons, also a way to torture the prisoners by not being able to talk with familiy members and loved ones, who cannot afford the charges on collect calls that are sky high!!!!!!

# 855:

Aug 2, 2009, Jelica Roland, Croatia

# 854:

Aug 2, 2009, Richard Anshutz, California

It's bad enough for the person in prison. His/her family on the outside was not convicted of anything, yet is "punished" by these unfair, excessive costs. This deteriorates connections for rehabilitation. Rehabilitation should begin from DAY ONE in incarceration, instead of waiting for years and years, decades even.

# 853:

Aug 2, 2009, Gerald Lyman, California

My cousin has a son in prison. A per-call cap on phone calls from prison would be of help to her and thousands of others.

# 852:

Aug 2, 2009, Jon Andreas, California

This is important. Please help all of our family members communicate with our loved ones in prison.

# 851:

Aug 2, 2009, Rebecca Fulco, New Jersey

# 850:

Aug 2, 2009, Anonymous, California

I raised my grandchildren when both parents were in prison. The only contact they had with their parents was via phone. There are already so many interruptions with announcements where the call is coming from and how much time you have left that it is distracting and the time flies by so fast. It is so expensive that the calls were few and far between. The kids suffer. Call time is divided between two or three children and the adult making quality time over the phone almost impossible.

# 849:

Aug 2, 2009, Nasiya Range, California

# 848:

Aug 1, 2009, Jack Spratt, New Mexico

# 847:

Aug 1, 2009, ROBIN MCKAY, Kentucky

# 845:

Aug 1, 2009, Walker Mitchell, New York

# 844:

Jul 31, 2009, James Clark, Georgia

# 843:

Jul 31, 2009, Catherine Turley, California  
family, in particular children, may be the only incentive for these people to try to better their lives. and most of these families are those who can least afford inflated prices.

# 842:

Jul 31, 2009, Lynae Woods, Pennsylvania

# 841:

Jul 31, 2009, Anonymous, Florida

My brother is incarcerated at a Federal Prison for 178 months or almost 15 years for a first time non-violent offense. His daughter is 3 years old and he was the primary care giver before his incarceration. He made her meals, arranged childcare, bathed her, tended to every bump and bruise and in general cared for her in the most loving way possible. She is devastated by this insurmountable loss. He is located almost 7 hours from his home town so visits are only possible 2 per year given the money and distance. It is unjust to put the additional burden on the family to pay approx. \$80/ month for a phone calls. His lack of presence is the most devastating component, but not even being able to afford a quick phone call is inexplicable. Why punish these children that have lost so much?

# 840:

Jul 31, 2009, Kari Dyr Dahl, Minnesota

# 838:

Jul 31, 2009, Bobby Martin, Texas

# 837:

Jul 31, 2009, Raine Key, Texas

# 836:

Jul 31, 2009, Panagiotis Rigopoulos, Greece

# 835:

Jul 31, 2009, Rosemary Rannes, New Hampshire

# 834:

Jul 31, 2009, Valerie Hildebrand, Canada

# 833:

Jul 31, 2009, Sue Whitney, California

# 832:

Jul 30, 2009, Darlene Davis, Michigan

# 831:

Jul 30, 2009, Anonymous, New Hampshire

To Whom It May Concern, It would be nice if the system actually worked to help people rehabilitate. Right now they make money off people in prison and their families. They don't have any real programs. They have things for you to do but not the type rehabilitation and work that people on the outside think they have. Someone close to me was accepted to a rehab on the outside pending sentencing (paid for by a private source not the government). One state would go along with it but the other involved wouldn't. It's all politics and money. Now every day he "hurries up to wait...." This isn't a statistic. It's real. It's not up to the prisoner to make it better. They have no control. They need inexpensive phone service to help them deal and survive. They and their families are guinea pigs.

# 830:

Jul 30, 2009, Rolf Stuber, Switzerland

# 829:

Jul 30, 2009, Lady Xanadu Foster, Texas

# 828:

Jul 30, 2009, Brigitte Huss, Germany

# 827:

Jul 30, 2009, Rhonda Maness, Alabama

# 826:

Jul 30, 2009, Anonymous, Oklahoma

# 825:

Jul 30, 2009, Lily Arnold, United Kingdom

# 824:

Jul 30, 2009, Michael Owens, Virginia

# 823:

Jul 30, 2009, Anonymous, Missouri

Would be wonderful to talk to my loved one by phone more than by way of USPS. Thank you.

# 822:

Jul 30, 2009, Joana Peixoto, Portugal

# 821:

Jul 30, 2009, Joycey Berry, North Carolina

# 820:

Jul 30, 2009, Laura Tatti, Italy

# 819:

Jul 30, 2009, Anonymous, Maryland

People are in prison hopefully to reform them. They need to stay in contact with family to help this process happen. Don't forget that even though they are incarcerated they still have mothers, fathers, spouses, children, brothers, sisters, etc. that love them and need to know that they are o.k. They need to have contact with the outside world to give them hope. Please don't use the telephone privilege as a profit tool. I believe that some facilities allow inmates to make occasion cards. Perhaps a business could sell these and split the profits between the BOP, inmate and business. It could help everyone and give the inmate something positive to do both in prison and out.

# 818:

Jul 30, 2009, Felicita Luna, New York

# 817:

Jul 30, 2009, Anja MM, Germany

# 816:

Jul 30, 2009, Cheree Miller, Florida

# 815:

Jul 30, 2009, Gillian Parrillo, Texas

Making money off the backs of the families of prisoners is callous. These families are already emotionally devastated by the incarceration of their loved ones as well as economically devastated. This is cruel and unusual punishment and a devious way for more money to be taken

from the families and given to the institutions. Please, Obama Administration, stop this heartless practice.

# 814:

Jul 30, 2009, Terry West, West Virginia

yes they charge you a arm and a leg and the county and city jails are even worst and they are local calls that should be no more then a \$1but i cost 3.75

# 813:

Jul 30, 2009, Dana Hoffman, Minnesota

# 812:

Jul 30, 2009, Suzybell Hughes, Florida

# 811:

Jul 30, 2009, Kathy Whitaker, Michigan

# 810:

Jul 29, 2009, Laraine Moore, North Carolina

My son is about to go into an Arizona prison, his home and daughter are in CO. and I am in NC. Phone calls have devastated me since I am on Social Security Disability and my granddaughter will only have 1 parent. Phone calls are THE HIGHLIGHT OF OUR DAY and now they seem to be THE HIGHLIGHT OF OUR MONTH. Please put a cap on this maatter and help us. Laraine L. Moore in NC.

# 809:

Jul 28, 2009, Anonymous, California

# 808:

Jul 28, 2009, Anonymous, Florida

Put an end to the neo-con hateful and harmful practices that double penalize the families of those incarcerated. But also let's show some fiscal responsibility and relieve the heavy costs of incarceration that are passed on to the tax paying public.

# 807:

Jul 27, 2009, Anonymous, Indiana

I have a son and husband in Indiana prison. I have not been able to talk my son for months! He was just 21 July 2nd but, I am on a limited income!!! I didn't get to even say Happy Birthdaaaaaaay to him.

# 806:

Jul 27, 2009, Anonymous, Indiana

I agree. It is a shame that my husband feels like he can't call me when he wants because it will send our phone bill through the roof! AUGH!

# 805:

Jul 26, 2009, William Donner, Georgia

# 804:

Jul 26, 2009, Carlos Martinez, California

# 803:

Jul 26, 2009, Anonymous, California

# 802:

Jul 25, 2009, Anonymous, Texas

Please reduce the cost for us to speak with our loved ones

# 801:

Jul 24, 2009, April Good, Wisconsin

i would like to call my baby daddy i miss him so much but i cant afford the bill when i have a kid and pay all my bills and all my money is gone before i know it

# 800:

Jul 22, 2009, Anonymous, California

It is proven that the more contact an inmate has with his/her loved ones the better behaved they are in prison. During these hard economic times the families of U.S. inmates need help. Please support the families of the incarcerated - they should not be punished too.

# 799:

Jul 21, 2009, Anonymous, California

**MONEY TALKS!!! MONEY, MONEY MONEY!** We are the real victims of the justice system. It's crime... numerous! One in particular, **ROBBERY!** They'll think of something or create a new law to get its money. Our justice system is so corrupted. Its honor is used by trade. A tit for tat, a position of higher rank, power, perhaps a **LIFE.** **MONEY** talks! It definitely talks through **OUR** security when smuggling guns and drugs into our country. It's practiced through and onto our streets we live on. How much money will it take to honor and practice what is morally **RIGHT?**

# 798:

Jul 20, 2009, Pamela Sanders, Georgia

It is ridiculous how much we pay to speak to our loved ones. Everyone makes mistakes. We all need love and support. It's always easy for the rich to pay. But for the struggling single mother, it's hard to make sure our kids are okay while incarcerated. Everyday you do hear from them is a day that you spend worrying.

# 797:

Jul 20, 2009, Anonymous, Colorado

# 796:

Jul 20, 2009, Tenisha Nan, Massachusetts

# 795:

Jul 20, 2009, PATRICIA NACE, Pennsylvania

My 24 year old daughter is in prison for 2-4 years. She has a 3 year old son who I have custody of. The prison is 5 hours away so we can only visit once a month. My grandson needs the phone calls so he can stay in contact with his mother. Even though she committed a crime she is sorry for, we are all being punished by the outrageous costs of phone calls. Families need to stay in contact. I believe this is for the good of everyone including the prisoner so they know they are worthy & want to do better by their family.

# 794:

Jul 20, 2009, Moriah Williams, Washington

I am just one of millions who has a loved one incarcerated i think its is an absolute shame and loss of compassion when people who are paying with there lives and paying there debt to society and there family and everything else that goes along with the unnatural state of prison are also forced to pay an exuberit amount of money to keep in contact with family and friends and there children. i hope we can somehow make a difference and be able to use the money to help rehabilitate individuals instead of using the money to build more prisons!

# 793:

Jul 20, 2009, Notso Smiley, Wisconsin

Don't punish the friends and family of a loved one who are merely there for support while the loved one is paying for their mistakes or waiting to here what their punishment is. They are being punished, the families are being punished and making phone calls, though a privilege to the inmate, so expensive, you are punishing the families more than the inmate. Reconsider why it is so expensive for this privilege. Where does all the money go? What programs is it actually supporting?

# 792:

Jul 20, 2009, Kristi Lynn Grunow, Wisconsin

# 791:

Jul 20, 2009, Caitlin Haynes, California

My fiancee is in prison for 2 years. I work and go to college, and I can barely afford food, let alone a nearly \$10 fifteen minute phone call... I just want to hear his voice. It's the biggest blessing in the world. I just wish it wasn't such a costly one

# 790:

Jul 19, 2009, Jeanette Sanders, Nebraska

I believe it is ridiculous that the DOC and the BOP have these cost so high to make a profit. They speak about keeping the family unit together when in the first place the majority of our loved ones are too far to visit and then the cost of the phone is out of this world. There should be a program set in place that all these loved ones can dial direct instead of using collect. My gosh for the most part it cost a consumer .10 cents a minute to dial a long distance call. With an additional factor most phones after a certain time can use minuets for free. So to charge a person \$4.00 to \$30.00 or more for a 15 minute call is not thinking about the consumer that is paying for it. If they want to have us pay them that much then give them better pay on the inside to supplement the situation. We all pay taxes that supports these facilities why do you need to make

a profit off as well. Please change the way you are making this profit and give our families a chance to keep our loved ones close.

# 789:

Jul 19, 2009, Nancy Schlieper, Utah

When my love one entered prison I feel like I am being punished because I love and support him. I need to be able to talk to him so that I can begin to heal and am unable to because of the high cost of phone calls. I pay \$8.00 a call. I can only afford to talk to him twice a month while some months not at all. His Father and Mother are both living on Social Security and are both not expected to live long enough to see him return. The phone calls are breaking all of us and we feel so much guilt because we can't afford the calls. It's not fair that those of us that did not break the law are caused pain and suffering. We have already been caused pain from our loved one being removed from our lives (something we did not have anything to do with) why should we not be caused more guilt and suffering because we cannot afford the collect calls from the prison.

# 788:

Jul 19, 2009, Anonymous, Maryland

Our phone bills should not be more than all of our other bills together. I agree that there are a reason our loved ones are in there however, monopolies are supposed to be illegal so how can this go on? I used to pay .85 for a call, he gets moved and the rate goes up to 15.00 for 30 minutes!!!!!! We are in the same state. I get a better rate calling my family in Italy. Something needs to be done and fast!!!!!!!!!!

# 787:

Jul 19, 2009, Elizabeth Barajas, California

people that are low income have a hard time paying their bills yet alone paying out a huge phone bill from prison calls

# 786:

Jul 19, 2009, Beth McCullough, Ohio

# 785:

Jul 19, 2009, Brittney Stafford, Indiana

Seriously something has to be done. I had to quit using the phone because it was costing me 200 a month, and at this time I can't do it. It would cause less havoc on an inmate if they could talk. My son is just getting to where he can talk...his dad has missed out on his whole life...and I can't even afford to let my son talk to his Daddy on the phone...please understand and help!

# 784:

Jul 19, 2009, Patricia Conner, Alabama

It is crazy that the only people they can talk to their loved ones in prison is rich people!!!!!!!!!! This needs to be adjusted so everyone can at least talk once a week!

# 783:

Jul 18, 2009, Anonymous, Iowa

I live in Iowa and accept collect calls from my son. It costs me \$4.95 to ACCEPT the call, and

\$1 for every minute after that plus tax. Thank God my son is only allowed to talk for fifteen minutes. For that call I pay \$24.95. I am retired and receive social security for my pension. It is no ones fault that my son is in prison but his, but I do not think it is right that the correctional departments are allowed to collect such amounts for calls.

# 782:

Jul 18, 2009, Kathy Munoz, Florida

# 781:

Jul 18, 2009, Anonymous, Connecticut

i think its ridiculous with what they are doing. Some inmates don't have alot of family and whomever they do have its hard for them to reach them. I'm a wife and i cant even get in touch with my husband. i only make enough to support my family and i'm expecting my 3rd child. all these taxes and the rates going up on everything. no one can afford these outrageous prices. some inmates did real pity crimes why punish them even more by making it hard to communicate with families. If this world and this government wasn't so crooked. there probably wouldnt be so many crimes

# 780:

Jul 18, 2009, Anonymous, Ohio

Prisons are filled with people who have made bad choices, I fully understand the necessity to punish the guilty but we disagree with charging pheonmenal amounts for those who want to make a phone call to loved ones and it hurts the innocent family.

# 779:

Jul 18, 2009, Anonymous, Pennsylvania

the cost of phone calls is ridiculous please have them lowered

# 778:

Jul 17, 2009, Kathleen LaBelle, Minnesota

# 777:

Jul 16, 2009, Anonymous, Louisiana

# 776:

Jul 14, 2009, Anonymous, Michigan

# 775:

Jul 14, 2009, Marc Andreas, Michigan

# 774:

Jul 14, 2009, Cassandra Wels, South Dakota

# 773:

Jul 14, 2009, JoyceKay Pech, California

Each time my son calls me from prison my day becomes a happy one. Each month when I get the bill for his calls my heart jumps at the high cost.

# 772:

Jul 14, 2009, Eleana Holloway, Alabama

# 771:

Jul 13, 2009, Monica Lam-Kuo, Florida

# 770:

Jul 13, 2009, Chantelle McCormick, Alabama

For more impact, add a personal comment here

# 769:

Jul 12, 2009, PAUL HOOSE, Michigan

Collect calls from prisons as an inmate that have to call home to their family are very high in cost. This cost is extremely high in cost, comparable to, fuel cost the government passes off as now normal. But this is the government who is charging these costs to the family of the inmates, as they say, it part of doing business with the incarcerated. Just another form of a tax, like tobacco. It only affects a few individuals that is why the government allows such charges.

# 768:

Jul 12, 2009, Jennifer Garcia, California

yes, please lower the costs for the calls...

# 767:

Jul 11, 2009, Deborah Dawson, Oklahoma

# 766:

Jul 10, 2009, Ann Samz, Wisconsin

# 765:

Jul 10, 2009, DOMINICK SALERNO, California

I AM WRITING THIS ON BEHALF OF MY SON WHO GOT SCREW BY OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM SIMPLY BECAUSE HE COULD NOT AFORD A GOOD LAWYER, ONLY THOSE WITH MONEY CAN BEAT THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

# 764:

Jul 10, 2009, Teressa Gomez, Texas

# 763:

Jul 5, 2009, Daniel DeLora, Florida

I am not able to talk to my mother because of the cost and because of that I am not able to eat or sleep properly if I can't here my mother's voice.

# 762:

Jul 4, 2009, Brandon Emberton, Arkansas

# 761:

Jun 30, 2009, Don May, Tennessee

# 760:

Jun 29, 2009, Anonymous, North Carolina

I spend about 160.00 a month putting min. on the phone so i can receive calls from my husband. It cost 2.75 for the frist min. and 17 cent for every min. other that. which is crazy! How can we live paying prices like that.

# 759:

Jun 29, 2009, Taimi Olasc, California

I am appalled at the way PCS conducts business. They take advantage of people during a difficult time in their lives. It is unfair that they are the only option for phone calls from inmates. When we chose not to use the service, they had my phone blocked from receiving collect calls from the jail. I called AT&T inquiring why collect calls were blocked and they informed me that PCS blocked the calls, as my bills are current. I don't even see how that is legal. This is a monopoly; they force me to use PCS if I am to talk to my husband. I complied since I have no choice. They didn't accept my American Express, so I went and purchased a prepaid debit card specifically for PCS purchases. I put \$25 then \$50 on my husband's account at SBDF, plus \$12.50 in service fees. I have the emailed confirmations. My debit card lists both as pending transactions since 4/06/09. I was told by Helena, a PCS rep, my debit card put the hold on the transactions and I needed to contact them. After I found this to be false, they admitted that the hold was theirs. The \$87.50 they will not accept as payment so I can get my husband's calls, they won't return to me either. They hold the monopoly on inmate calls from SD County Jail so I have no choice. I paid another \$62.50 on an inmate calling card. My husband was issued a number but when he tried it someone else was already using it. When he got his turn there was \$6.15 left out of \$50.00! This happened twice. PCS said it was a jail problem. When I tried to put money on my account it wouldn't go through. The PCS representative told me the transactions were declined even though I have confirmation and my debit card lists them as pending. He then said it doesn't matter that the funds were available, they don't need a reason to refuse to do business, and it would take 4 to 7 business days for the money to be released back to my account. When has a declined debit card purchase ever put a hold on the purchase amount, why not debit the card if the money is there? Usually the only reason a purchase is declined is the money is not available. This is not the case here. They said the money would be credited to my account after I contacted the FCC, but it never was.

# 758:

Jun 28, 2009, Charlotte Boykin, Alabama

MY husband is in prison for a probation technicality. {failed a drug test for marijuana}. I am on disability and i am having to care for his 78 yr old mother who has Alzheimers. I cannot afford the 8 dollar 15 min phone calls from him. His mom is still able to remember him at this time but she may not in a few weeks. We lost his income when he was sent to prison and his poor mama

should not be denied the right to talk to her son simply because of the illegal kickbacks between the phone company and the prison system. Why are we being punished????

# 757:

Jun 26, 2009, Sarah Rondo, Michigan  
prisoners families should not be punished for prisoners mistakes. They should be able to have free contact with there families.

# 756:

Jun 25, 2009, TRAMAINE PERDUE, Nevada

# 755:

Jun 25, 2009, Jeanene Sanchez, Utah  
Children Deserve to talk to their parent

# 754:

Jun 24, 2009, Jodie Staniforth, California

# 753:

Jun 24, 2009, Cynthia St.gelais, Canada

# 752:

Jun 24, 2009, Christina Gonzalez, California  
We need all the help we can get.

# 751:

Jun 23, 2009, John Dawid, Missouri  
The prohibitive cost of telephone communication punishes the family as well -- even though they may not have run afoul of the law. Moreover, it isolates the inmate to a community of other inmates. I believe for any rehabilitation to occur, the person must be able to have a connection to the world outside, in order to compare against the world inside. If an inmate is prevented this contact, they eventually will, if I may coin a phrase, forget what they're missing.

# 750:

Jun 22, 2009, Ricardo Roldan, California  
These corrections and phone companies need to get out of bed with each other, some of thee Clowns that allow this over charging should be locked up for taking advantages of the famalies.

# 749:

Jun 21, 2009, Ivan Lazarus, Texas  
Why aren't the prisons rehabilitating people!? The phone calls influence this problem. Reassuring family members are very significant to rehabilitation for some.

# 748:

Jun 21, 2009, Marla Burke, Pennsylvania  
My son has been incarcerated for a forced false confession since 2005, we are not able to talk sometimes because of the cost of phone calls and the limited amount of time give for a phone

call. Please consider decreasing the costs of phone calls and encouraging Pennsylvania institutions to increase frequency allowance for phone calls.

# 747:

Jun 21, 2009, Anonymous, California

# 746:

Jun 20, 2009, Veronica Bryan, North Carolina

I know how you feel. My husband will be locked up for seven years and the phone calls are expensive. Try this site it makes them to be .99 cents a call local123.net email me at peaches4u2008@yahoo.com, if you need help. Because these prices for calls are outrageous.

# 745:

Jun 19, 2009, Anonymous, Utah

I am essentially a single mother of 9 month old twins since my husband went back to prison. I do not receive any state assistance other than some formula from WIC. I work and I also send money every month to the prison for him. It's nice to talk to him once a week- but at what price?! Who gets these outrageous profits? There should be a law and a cap on what can be charged!

# 744:

Jun 18, 2009, Anonymous, Pennsylvania

# 743:

Jun 18, 2009, Anonymous, Mississippi

# 742:

Jun 18, 2009, Andrea Harter, United Kingdom

# 741:

Jun 17, 2009, Jodi Carson, Indiana

The families are not in prison, why make them pay for the offenders crime?

# 740:

Jun 15, 2009, Anonymous, Ohio

# 739:

Jun 15, 2009, Anonymous, Montana

# 738:

Jun 15, 2009, Kathy Oliver, Mississippi

# 737:

Jun 15, 2009, Victoria Rushing, Illinois

Phone Calls are Astronomical and should be a crime in themselves! Are we saying that prisoners no longer need human contact from the outside world? Well high prices of phone calls make that a reality for some prisoners. Please stop this Injustice!!!

# 736:

Jun 14, 2009, Marcia McGuire, Colorado

The profits are obscene. It is not applied for excellent wages, health benefits, etc. to the average worker for these corporations; strictly excess for the CEO's. Meanwhile, these corporations show a lack of compassion and RESPECT for ALL Americans. Where is the caring? None? I believe so. The greed needs to end. Balance is in order. It is insulting that the people are being taken advantage of for personal gain. I would suggest a boycott. One month of letters instead of calls from 50% or more and each phone company would feel the impact. I truly believe this is the only way to be heard.\*\*\*\*\*

# 735:

Jun 13, 2009, Lyn Fuller, Pennsylvania

It's not right I must pay \$15 per call to talk with my friend in Ohio. Inmates being able to stay in touch with family and friends is paramount in allowing them some normal contact with the outside world. Yes they have committed a crime and are paying for it, but why do we the friends and family have to pay through the nose as well??

# 734:

Jun 13, 2009, Paula Stoner, Ohio

Having loved ones in prison is difficult enough, these men and women need their families at this point in time, more than anything!! We shouldn't have to worry about the cost of phone calls on top of the stress of our loved ones being out of reach anyway.

# 733:

Jun 13, 2009, Kathryn Taylor, Ohio

# 732:

Jun 13, 2009, Cynthia Lopez, California

# 731:

Jun 13, 2009, Anonymous, Mississippi

Please please help us anyway you can to stay in touch with our Sons/daughters/family members etc. WE pay the price daily with our grief, yes grieving is what i call being separated from family. Knowing its going to b a long time and he will be a different person, how can he not? I'm not the inmate, WHY do I pay the price for staying in touch. sincerely lm

# 730:

Jun 13, 2009, Jamila Morgan, California

# 729:

Jun 13, 2009, Tracy Johnson, Virginia

My son's father has been sentenced to 20 years. Damien is only three years old and the only contact he will have with his dad is by phone until he is an adult. I will not allow prison visits because I believe that will be too difficult for him to handle, at least at this time. Please lower the rates for prison calls so my son can have access to his father.

# 728:

Jun 12, 2009, STELLA RODRIGUEZ, Nevada

# 727:

Jun 12, 2009, Sharon Mabe, Virginia

There has got to be some kind of help out there for those who are having to pay the high phone calls just to make sure their loved ones are okay!!!

# 726:

Jun 12, 2009, Carina G, California

# 725:

Jun 12, 2009, Stacy Pikor, California

# 724:

Jun 12, 2009, Jennifer Quartana, Mississippi

# 723:

Jun 11, 2009, THERESA GARCIA, Arizona

# 722:

Jun 11, 2009, Holly Moreno, California

# 721:

Jun 11, 2009, JENNIFER ALFARO, California

# 720:

Jun 11, 2009, Crystal Snow, California

# 719:

Jun 11, 2009, Chanel Gonzalez, Colorado

# 718:

Jun 11, 2009, Anonymous, Texas

It is way too expensive, so much that its hard to pay the bills! and its either pay it or dont talk to your family..... and worry about it!

# 717:

Jun 11, 2009, BARBARA ABBOTT, California

MY HUBBY IS IN CARCERATED AND HAS BEEN FOR 9 YRS! WE WOULD LOVE TO TALK MORE THEN ONCE A DAY..HES MY HUSBAND BUT WITH THE COST...WE CANNOT MY BILL IS OVER 100.00 JUST ON COLLECT CALLS!!! PLEASE DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS SO WE CAN TALK TO OUR LOVED ONES MORE OFTEN!!!

# 716:

Jun 11, 2009, Maria Garcia, California

# 715:

Jun 11, 2009, Nina Downer, Nevada

My calls are from MO. The state that never wants to let anyone go especially for minor infractions

# 714:

Jun 11, 2009, Denisse Espadas, California

# 713:

Jun 11, 2009, Laura Montoya, California

# 712:

Jun 11, 2009, Chakwaina Elmore, Tennessee

My brother did do wrong and was in prison. My Mother's mind would have been eased if she could have heard his voice more often. The extreme cost of those phone calls made it nearly impossible. There were times she had to choose between hearing her son's voice and buying life sustaining medication for my Daddy. Also, my niece and nephew could not hear their Daddy's voice, due to high cost of the phone calls. Please, explain to me what my Mother, Niece and Nephew did to be punished by the high cost of hearing my Brother's voice???

# 711:

Jun 10, 2009, Mallory Iacovelli, New Jersey

# 710:

Jun 10, 2009, Pat Johnson, California

It should be enough that the inmate has or is serving their time and paying their debt to society. The families, parents and children of inmates should not be punished as well.

# 709:

Jun 10, 2009, Kimberly Bennett, California

# 708:

Jun 10, 2009, Diana Robinson, Maryland

I think to help the economy, you are not punishing the inmates by the costs of the calls, you are punishing the families, which most of us are now single mothers. when we are trying to keep up our homes and aso be able to communicate with our family members.

# 707:

Jun 10, 2009, Hollie Dzinglewski, Illinois

I am on SSI and I can not afford for my husband to call home as much as we would like so our family can stay connected!

# 706:

Jun 10, 2009, Anonymous, New York

My son is in DOC in Colorado. I want to be a part of his life as does the rest of his family. We feel that we offer the possitive influence that he needs at this time in his life. We can't afford the cost of the calls and our hearts can't afford rejecting them. This is a true form of abuse by the system. I hate when I read how much it cost to keep my son in prison and never read how much they make to keep him there, there has to be a profit that is going into many different pockets.

# 705:

Jun 10, 2009, Michele Goff, Alabama

Alabama is notorious for its "Prison Call Partners" - the state, it is rumored, is getting kickbacks from the phone companies' outrageous billing on inmate collect calls. Here in Alabama, if you have a loved one in prison, not only is he/she being punished for a crime, but so is their families and loved ones. How fair is that?

# 704:

Jun 9, 2009, Anonymous, California

# 703:

Jun 9, 2009, Enjoli Haley Muthu, New York

The punishment for the crimes committed by inmates are the prison sentences they are serving. Overcharging for collect phone calls fro prison is unethical, unfair & inappropriate since they are already serving their time.

# 702:

Jun 8, 2009, Anonymous, New York

I am a single mom and cant afford these calls!

# 701:

Jun 8, 2009, Gennadiy Sevchuk, California  
from Prison!" petition!

# 700:

Jun 8, 2009, Linda Harden, California

With all due respect, Our prisons are really suffering. We need help down here on the ground.  
Thank you

# 699:

Jun 8, 2009, Sue Reams, California

# 698:

Jun 7, 2009, Franklin Stephenson, Tennessee

The importance of keeping families together as much as possible can not be emphasized enough. The telephone is the only way this can be accomplished. For the sake of families and the rehabilitation of prisoners please make this possible.

# 697:

Jun 7, 2009, Joseph FREEMAN, California

# 696:

Jun 7, 2009, Leah Simon, California

It is of the utmost importance that those whom are imprisoned have contact with their loved ones who are their only support system. The chance for a successful reentry after release is greatly increased when there has been a support system in place. However, at the current prices, most families cannot afford regular phone calls. These method of connecting with family where you can at least hear their voice is extremely important. Please reduce the rates in this high tech era where phone calls are so cheap except in this case. Thank you for your careful consideration.

# 695:

Jun 7, 2009, Joseph S. Duran, California

The forced consumer is not getting the service or the best rates possible, instead, "We The People" are being exploited, by corporate greed and corruption, this should not be allowed to continue, this entity needs to be put in "Check" !!

# 694:

Jun 6, 2009, Cheri H, Florida

Lowering the cost would be most helpful in these hard economic times, thank you, when that day comes and all these votes count!

# 693:

Jun 6, 2009, Kelley Talsma, California

# 692:

Jun 6, 2009, Rosemary Whitlow, Iowa

# 691:

Jun 6, 2009, Norma J F Harrison, California

another kind of torture. Besides incarcerating people who don't need it, besides not providing rehabilitation rather than brutalization, besides creating a class of people who are outside the system so there can be victims to be abused by capitalism's laws and brutal workers, then you reduce one after another vestige of humane contact. The costs of those calls make the contacts next to impossible - and profit one of our oppressor institutions, the communications corporation.

# 690:

Jun 5, 2009, Kristen P, Pennsylvania

Please lower the rates,my boyfriend lives out of state and with the economy and being a 19 year working and going to school its hard!

# 689:

Jun 5, 2009, Judy Coats, Virginia

A lot of people make mistakes, some try to correct them. But making it almost impossible to speak to loved ones who can offer support? This does make an impact, please help us correct it.

# 688:

Jun 5, 2009, Heather Alvarez, Iowa  
Heather Jean Alvarez

# 687:

Jun 5, 2009, Amber Sellers, Mississippi

i would like the cost of the calls to be lowered because my brother is in greene county and it is 6 dollars for him to call one time and the way the economy is we are trying to get by paying bills.. Its hard out here these days. I always want to talk to my brother and if yall lower the cost i might can get to talk to him more than i do.

# 686:

Jun 4, 2009, Judi Manning, North Carolina

The cost of calls from prison are ABSURD and OUTRAGEOUS! Who are they trying to punish? Us or the inmates? The inmates are already being punished so that leaves US. A few precious minutes of comfort should not cost anyone a dime!

# 685:

Jun 4, 2009, Stephanie McCrory, Mississippi

I try to keep my two year old bonded with his father. This is becoming very hard to do when the phone calls cost so much. I have to choose between driving three hours one way for a five hour visit or a phone call. My child wants to see and talk to his father by phone. Please Help lower the cost of the calls to ease the burden on the family that is left behind. Remember some of those incarcerated are innocent and are in the appeals process to get back home

# 684:

Jun 3, 2009, Anonymous, California

With the economy so bad , and being unemployed high cost of phone calls from inmates in prison and incarcerated in jails are extremely expensive,my son can't me very often because he knows how hard it is just to survive on little income,and it hurts,not being able to hear his voice. I want to be able to let him know that hearing him talk is a comfort and I know he is ok. Please Mr.Obama help families by doing something about this. Thank You

# 683:

Jun 3, 2009, Patty Mills, Mississippi

Please help us as we do our best to survive in this world with a loved one in prison. It is hard enough on loved ones with canteen prices but just hearing their voice can help us out here.

# 682:

Jun 3, 2009, Francis Courser, California

I don't mind if a company makes a profit. But to steal from the families of inmates that have already spent thousands to appeal and court cost is mean and outrageous. There is no way to justify the cost being charged!

# 681:

Jun 3, 2009, Angela Fletcher, Georgia

I have not heard my boyfriend's voice in eight months. I can't afford the calls and put money on his books and pay my own bills.

# 680:

Jun 2, 2009, Frank Miceli, California

# 679:

Jun 2, 2009, Anonymous, California

# 678:

Jun 2, 2009, Dorothea Thomas, Pennsylvania

# 677:

Jun 2, 2009, Susie Sheppard, Mississippi

My son is in the Mississippi Dept. Of Corrections . As guardian of his 3 sons it is not easy to drive 3 hours one way to see him with the phone calls being so expensive they are lucky to be able to hear his voice once a week for 20 minutes PLEASE help them keep in contact with their Dad. Thank You

# 676:

Jun 2, 2009, Melissa Elgin, Mississippi

Anyone who has a loved one incarcerated knows the cost of communication via the phone can put a financial burden on a household. My fiancée has been incarcerated for 2 years and I have spent over a thousand dollars I know to keep the lines of communication open between us. He has out of state family that for one phone call cost them over \$18, therefore he doesn't get to talk to them often. Our loved ones are paying for their crimes please lessen the burden on the families trying to keep in touch with them.

# 675:

Jun 2, 2009, Natalie Bolds, California

# 674:

Jun 2, 2009, Charles Langley, California

my son is in prison in calif and i cantt pay for the cost of the calls from him it just cost to much

# 673:

Jun 2, 2009, Denise Langley, California

the cost of phone call from prisons cost so much !!! that it is wrong it wrong for the inmates and its wrong for the familys of the inmates its just wrong and it all about the money ...

# 672:

Jun 2, 2009, Christina Aguilar, California

For years families including mine have struggled to maintain family ties through phone calls and have been exploited by the phone companies that are running prison phone calls. Outrageour prices, customer service that treats us like we are criminals, we pay the most money in the

country to receive a single phone call and yet get zero customer service, with all the money they make off of us we cannot even get a live person on the phone, they call you back when they want. It is horrible, it is a nightmare to deal with these companies and they charge us what they want and treat us how they want because they can, we don't have a choice! I am a taxpayer and incarceration has placed hardships on mine and millions of other lives in america. As we struggle to keep our families together we are imposed upon in every way possible by companies that monopolize on such things as a phone call. Please protect us.

# 670:

Jun 1, 2009, Anonymous, California

It is bad enough the Prison Industry is a BILLION dollary industry. It cost a fortune to talk to your loved one. This effects everyone psychology. We need to reduce the rates and stop stealing from the same citizens who pay them

# 669:

Jun 1, 2009, Denise Pyle, Arizona

# 668:

May 31, 2009, CAMILIA ELDRIDGE, California

I AM TIRED OF MY HARDWORKING MONEY THAT IS CRUCIAL TO MY ABILITY TO CARE FOR MY TWO CHILDREN WHICH IS ILLEGALLY TAKEN BY GREEDY PHONE COMPANIES ALL ON THE ACCOUNT OF MY CHILDREN WANTING TO SPEAK WITH THEIR DAD. BESIDES THE ASSOCIATED COSTS OF EXPENSIVE VISITS, THE PHONE COSTS ARE UNBEARABLE. ALLOW FAMILIES SOME RELIEF HERE PLEASE! WE VOTE, WE PAY TAXES, WE ARE NOT INCARCERATED, AND WE ARE TIRED OF BEING TREATED AS SUCH. STOP THE INSANITY OF ROBBING US. ROBBERY IS ILLEGAL AND OUR CRY FOR JUSTICE ISN'T.

# 667:

May 30, 2009, Elaine Lujan, California

# 666:

May 29, 2009, Emmery Flores, California

Please lower the collect calls!

# 665:

May 29, 2009, Marlene Flores, California

I have a brother that is in prison over in Mississippi. I believe the calls are extremely expensive and should decreased asap. Thank you for your concern.

# 664:

May 29, 2009, Victoria Soileau, Kansas

# 663:

May 29, 2009, Dale Sisson, Texas

I would love to be able to speak with my husband but the rates, fees, service charges are

exorbitant. Why are we being punished for what our significant other has done and why are you charging the incarcerated individual twice for his crime because that is what is happening. Isn't that like double-jeopardy?

# 662:

May 29, 2009, Anonymous, Netherlands

# 661:

May 29, 2009, Maria Spatenhuber, Texas

# 660:

May 29, 2009, Donna Pfender, Pennsylvania  
This is highway robbery and needs to stop!

# 659:

May 29, 2009, Laurel Watson, Arizona

# 658:

May 28, 2009, Celia Sweet, Texas

As retired Exec. Director of Indiana C.U.R.E. for 9 years working with the legislators in that State, we got the cost of the phone calls lowered. Most legislators (politicians) do not know the extent of the hardship that it causes for a family to be able to stay in touch with their loved ones while incarcerated, especially when they move the inmate so far away that the families cannot visit. National C.U.R.E. also is working to have these costs lowered, so contact your politicians and do as I did, stay in their face.

# 657:

May 27, 2009, Linda Commeau, Maine

The outrageous prices for calls from our loved ones incarcerated needs to be decreased so we can remain in contact with them

# 656:

May 27, 2009, Anonymous, California

I am a single income household. The outrageous prices of a collect phone call is more than the average person can afford.

# 655:

May 27, 2009, Shawna Sanchagrín, California

Easy, affordable contact with our loved ones in prisons is essential to the health of our families and our communities. The exploitation of prisoners and their loved ones outside needs to end.

# 654:

May 27, 2009, Jamiene Andris, California

Now a single mother out here with three kids to raise alone. My husband is 222 miles away in prison and we can't afford the phone calls anymore. I attempt to get my kids to see him once a month, they love their dad. They would love to be able to hear his voice and so would I but we

only have letters and most of the time he is worried because he can't talk to us. The prices are ridiculous and have destroyed my credit because I cannot afford to pay off the bills and live. PLEASE HELP!

# 653:

May 27, 2009, Anonymous, Arkansas

# 652:

May 27, 2009, Anonymous, California

These costs are outrageous and the FCC should be ashamed of how they are abusing their power. I urge Congress and President Obama to apply pressure to the FCC so they can make the necessary changes and charge what is fair for prison calls.

# 651:

May 27, 2009, Dorothy Algood, Texas

My Son is in Federal Prison, almost a 2 day drive from where we his elderly parents live. It cost 10.00 for a 15 minute call from this BOP. Then our time is cut short by constant operator interuptions, telling us that this call is from a Federal Prison (We know this) This is the only way we can hear his voice, as we have no way to visit in person. Please get these phone bills lowered and in line with what we as people of loved ones in prison can afford.

# 650:

May 27, 2009, Timothy Frei, Pennsylvania

# 649:

May 27, 2009, Kelly Greene, California

The cost of these calls is outrageous. They charge nearly a dollar a minute difference between my number and my mother in laws number, when I called for an explanation, I had to wait HOURS on hold and was finally told that they didn't know why the billing was different, but...it just was. This is absurd!

# 648:

May 27, 2009, Ute maria Benz, Germany

# 647:

May 27, 2009, Monica Hudson, California

pLEASE HELP US TO REDUCE THE COST OF PHONE CALLS. iT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT FAMILIES CAN COMMUNICATE WITH THEIR LOVED ONES IN PRISON. THIS HELPS PRISONERS TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH THEIR CHILDREN AND SPOUSES. THE EXOPRBITANT FEES ARE PUTTING AN EXTRA HARDSHIP ON MANY ALREADY POOR FAMILIES. IT IS COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AND THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR THIS.

# 646:

May 26, 2009, Susan Timpson, California

I am outraged by the manner in which prisoneers are forced to utilized particular telephone carriers when they make collect calls to friends and family members. These companies are

allowed to GOUGE people who have no choice. If the family isn't already living below the poverty line they will be after paying for the calls. Contact between inmates and families is vital to providing a sense of worth that will help keep the prison environment calmer and less prone to violence. It will also help the inmate upon reentry to the real world when released on parole. Please assist in keeping these vital communication pathways open by preventing the GOUGING of prisoners and their families!

# 645:

May 26, 2009, Shannon Baldwin, Texas

# 644:

May 26, 2009, Stephen Munkelt, California

# 643:

May 26, 2009, Robert Greene, Florida

As a recently released ex-offender myself, with my limited resources, it is almost impossible for me to maintain contact with my 'inside' friends. A break (no pun intended) would be appreciated.

# 642:

May 26, 2009, Jeniece Parent, Michigan

# 641:

May 26, 2009, Umberto Arciero, Italy  
vicino a voi... Near you...

# 640:

May 26, 2009, Anonymous, Tennessee

# 639:

May 26, 2009, Elaine Wang, California

# 638:

May 26, 2009, Anonymous, California

Being without our loved ones is hard enough both emotionally & financially, expensive calls don't help!

# 637:

May 25, 2009, John Zwerling, Virginia

My client and their families have no choice regarding the phone company that is available to them in a jail or prison. The charges are often obscene.

# 636:

May 25, 2009, Marc Leibman, New Jersey

These fees are outrageous. They also drive up the cost of the defense because lawyers, like me, have to pay them. Since I do some defense for government appointed matters, it means the government pays for it. Pretty dumb.

# 635:

May 25, 2009, Kathy Harris, Alabama

# 634:

May 25, 2009, Anonymous, Alabama

My Fiancee is in jail at this point, not convicted but incarcerated. I have to pay \$50.00 a week to a company in Mexico so we can talk for 3, 15 minute calls. Please help!!

# 633:

May 25, 2009, Clay S. Conrad, Texas

The costs to society are immense when a prisoner loses his family ties. We should not be burdening this and making it harder for prisoners to remain connected to their families, including children and spouses. The pennies made on a phone call can never balance out the huge expenses to society when prisoners have nothing to go back to, and re-offend, usually in an escalating pattern of criminality.

# 632:

May 25, 2009, Darren Cantor, Colorado

I hear from client's families on a regular basis about the difficulty of communicating with their loved one who is in jail. There are so many costs to isolating an inmate and preventing them from communicating with their family. It makes inmates harder to control by the facility. It makes them less likely to act reasonably with respect to their cases and why they are in jail. It makes them more isolated and more angry when they get out.

# 631:

May 25, 2009, Clay Daniel, Texas

# 630:

May 25, 2009, Daniel Manville, Michigan

There is no justification for the high prices being charged families of those confined. It is just another example of the corporation taking advantage of people without political power. Use your power to do something for the people that voted for you.

# 629:

May 25, 2009, B. Cayenne Bird, California

I am a senior citizen who must live on social security which makes paying the high phone rates beyond my financial ability. My son is located many hundreds of miles away from me and I cannot visit him often due to my disability. The mail can take up to six weeks to arrive. So the telephone is the only way for me to give him a reason to continue living as the California prison system causes so much depression, which is why we have the highest rate of suicide. He is the brightest spot in my life and I in his, yet the high cost limits the time we can spend communicating with one another. If close family ties are the goal in order to expedite rehabilitation and make sure that prisoners have a place to go upon release, then the phone rates must be lowered. Surely there is a way to make money other than off the backs of those who can least afford it and have no other way to generate more income. The elderly parents of prisoners

are often strained to the limit rearing their grandchildren at a time when they should be able to enjoy life. The cost of one phone call could buy a pair of shoes for one of my grandchildren or allow me to keep my house a few degrees warmer in the winter. Please lower the phone rates right away.

# 628:

May 24, 2009, Anonymous, Virginia

# 627:

May 22, 2009, Anonymous, Georgia

I have a son and daughter in law in prison. They have been incarcerated for 3 years and Global Tel Link has cornered the phone system, and has blocked any avenue where I can receive a call for less than \$4.85 15 minutes that is insane especially when the share holders are government officials who gain from this and more. This is legal money laundering. This is so unfair for all families who are trying to met there bills please stay in touch with there close ones, inc. children.

# 626:

May 22, 2009, Nora Weber, California

My son is in a prison hospital with out of control diabetes, legally blind and wheelchair bound. He can't even get a guard to dial the phone for hm. Then when he finally can get a call out, the charges on the collect calls are outrageous. We have even gotten disconnected right in the middle of saying something, and he has to call back. He is limited to one phone call per month. Just yesterday, the cut out all prison visits to anyone in the prison hospital. Now I will only be able to visit him one (1) day per month. Even that one visit can be refused by the Chief Medical Officer. I have to pay for a special phone line that is operated by AT & T. just so I can receive a collect call from the prison. My son has spent almost 19 years in prison from a motorcycle wreck. He will die due to total neglect of medical care. I believe the prison system in California is operating under criminal practices. I know for a fact the prison system is getting kick-backs from the telephone company.

# 625:

May 20, 2009, Anonymous, Wisconsin

Please do lower the cost of calls from prison WE ARE NOT THE CRIMINAL!!!!!! It is BS how we are punished(the family, and friends!)

# 624:

May 19, 2009, Anonymous, Maryland

# 623:

May 19, 2009, BETTY JACKSON, Georgia

# 622:

May 18, 2009, Anonymous, Tennessee

The cost of phone calls from the prison system is criminal. In a world where one can call most of the world for pennies suggests that the system is using the taxpayers to fill their coffers. It is a

monopoly that needs to be monitored and regulated. The families and friends that inmates call are people who support them and help to reduce recidivism.

# 621:

May 18, 2009, Joelene Cannioto-Cooper, New York

My husband is in a prison in Upstate NY, we have 3 kids that really need to speak to him. But the cost of the calls are unreal, every thing around us is going up in cost and now we even have to pay for our kids to say I love you to their father. Then Global tel link and their pre-paid, you have to pay so much and what you pay up front you can't even use that amount you have to do 2-3 calls and then they will up the calls, IF I Have to PAY upfront I want everything that I paid for.

# 620:

May 16, 2009, Pat Richardson, Texas

# 619:

May 16, 2009, Crystal cox Oklahoma, Oklahoma

# 618:

May 16, 2009, Willa Robinson, Alabama

# 617:

May 15, 2009, Paula LaRue, Arizona

# 616:

May 15, 2009, Amber Black, Nevada

My husband just recently got arrested. He has not been able to call me because I had to call & get the phone # unblocked and in order for him to call the phone # put \$50.00 on acct. This is appalling if I had the money to do all that he wouldnt be sitting in county jail on his way back to prison! I have to talk to my husband not just for me but for him and to tie up lose ends her on the outside.

# 615:

May 13, 2009, Ashlie Armstrong, Oregon

# 614:

May 13, 2009, Melinda Johnston, Florida

# 613:

May 13, 2009, Melody Partridge, Washington  
LOWER IT PLEASE!!!!

# 612:

May 13, 2009, Crystal Prichard, Washington

# 611:

May 8, 2009, Patricia McFadden, Missouri

# 610:

May 8, 2009, Anonymous, Oregon

# 609:

May 8, 2009, Tina Parsons, Virginia

I support and I am in favor of lower the cost per call from loved ones who are incarcerated. I pay \$4.50 for 20 minutes now.(May 2008)

# 608:

May 7, 2009, Anonymous, Mississippi

# 607:

May 6, 2009, Anonymous, Oregon

# 606:

May 6, 2009, Anonymous, California

# 605:

May 6, 2009, Anonymous, North Carolina

high phone call prices do not hurt the prisoner....only the family trying to give some emotional support by keeping ties. people have no idea unless they find themselves paying for these calls...family is important to the rehabilitation of those who have committed crimes.

# 604:

May 6, 2009, Anonymous, Maryland

Inmates are still human beings, with needs to connect with friends and family; gouging their family members with astronomical fees only adds to the pain they already have faced with a loved one in jail. It is also irksome to learn what a monopoly a company such as "Global Tel Link" has. Disturbing to say the least. President Obama, please reform this corrupt system. Thank you.

# 603:

May 5, 2009, Heidi Johnson, Texas

# 602:

May 4, 2009, Samantha Woods, Washington

# 601:

May 4, 2009, Lisa Owens, Illinois

# 600:

May 4, 2009, Anonymous, Colorado

# 599:

May 3, 2009, Anonymous, Texas

Phone calls are often a way that inmates can keep in touch with family members that are unable

to travel to see them due to health or financial conditions. Please cap the cost to allow these relationships to flourish.

# 598:

May 3, 2009, Jeannie Seetch, Colorado

Please consider putting a cap on the cost of phone calls. It is sometimes the only lifeline for family members to remain connected to their loved ones.

# 597:

May 2, 2009, Brett Dignam, Connecticut

Establishing and maintaining connection with those who are behind bars, most of whom will be returning to the community, is essential. Reasonably priced telephone access is a simple and effective way to achieve that goal.

# 596:

May 1, 2009, Heather B, Wisconsin

# 595:

May 1, 2009, Aaliyah Alchaar, Wisconsin

# 594:

May 1, 2009, Heather Bieniarz, Wisconsin

# 593:

May 1, 2009, Lea Alchaar, Wisconsin

heatherb.pacific@gmail, heatherbieniarz@hotmail.com, mssexii\_gnagsta@yahoo.com, aaliyaha.pacific@gmail.com

# 592:

May 1, 2009, April Rivera, Texas

# 591:

Apr 30, 2009, Anonymous, Kentucky

# 590:

Apr 30, 2009, Anonymous, Wisconsin

# 589:

Apr 29, 2009, Tehlissa Taylor, Colorado

i just think all prisons fet to much money period and they dont deserve it becuae the first step is jail so you messed up that much that you deserve prison so why do you need anything you need to suffer just like you made other familys suffer more than 1 time.

# 588:

Apr 28, 2009, Katy Iturio, Illinois

# 587:

Apr 28, 2009, Lauri Burk, California

I hardly ever get to see my fiance, why should I have to pay \$5-\$6 for 10 min. of his time? I miss him!

# 586:

Apr 27, 2009, Paula Lefforge, Colorado

# 585:

Apr 27, 2009, Anonymous, Michigan

# 584:

Apr 27, 2009, Megan Bunger, South Dakota

# 583:

Apr 26, 2009, Kris Whorley, Texas

# 582:

Apr 26, 2009, Mindy Kidder, Michigan

I am one affected by the high collect call rates. I do believe that an inmate hearing the voice of their loved one can help in reducing their stress and anxiety. I am just making over minimum wage and when the phone costs so much more to use, we just don't get to talk. In my opinion- the phone companies end up making more money when the rates are cheaper. Personally i have spent over 200 using the phone, but in times when it is more costly....its just not worth it.

# 581:

Apr 23, 2009, Linz Davis, Virginia

# 580:

Apr 22, 2009, Trey Wells, Connecticut

My brother-in-law is in prison, and it is very expensive for him to be able to stay in contact with his daughters.

# 579:

Apr 22, 2009, Kristi Austin, Ohio

I think it's absolutely ridiculous how much they charge. I can't afford to speak to my husband, because I have 3 kids I'm trying to take care of while he's in. While he's being punished, so are the kids and I - we rarely get to talk to him.

# 578:

Apr 22, 2009, ZORAIDA ROQUE, New Jersey

THE PRICE ON THE CALLS ARE RIDICULOUS AND A RIP OFF..ESPECIALLY GLOBAL TELE LINK WHAT PREPAID SERVICE IT ISNT SAVING US MONEY THEY CHARGE FOR ALL TYPES OF SERVICE FEES..PLEASE HELP LOWER THE CALLS

# 577:

Apr 21, 2009, Anthonyesha Fagan, Ohio

# 576:

Apr 21, 2009, Linda Wells, Connecticut

My son-in-law is in prison, and the cost is ridiculous. Please help lower the prices!!!

# 575:

Apr 21, 2009, Megan Wells, Connecticut

My fiance is in prison, and we have two young daughters. Even though he may have done wrong, It is not fair to them to not be able to talk to their father. I am a single mother of two in college, it is hard to afford the ridiculous cost of phone calls!

# 574:

Apr 21, 2009, Shireen Estavillo, Hawaii

# 573:

Apr 20, 2009, Adrienne Frary, California

Please sign

# 572:

Apr 20, 2009, Jessica Gutierrez, California

# 571:

Apr 20, 2009, Anonymous, Ohio

# 570:

Apr 20, 2009, ANTIONETTE CROSBY, California

I believe that it extremely important that the cost of these calls or lower, I think that it is crucial for inmates to be able to have contact with loved ones, it is important to there mental and emotional stability, is this a form of more punishment hoping that by inmates not having contact with loved ones will become frustrated, I'm sure this has something to do with the riots and violence within the prison system, as stated above the inmates are usually from lower income families

# 569:

Apr 20, 2009, Lynnette Frary, California

My son was recently remanded in to custody on probation violations (drugs), I live on a social security disability income, and so far cannot believe the rates that Global Tel\*Link charges prisoners or the families who buy the prepaid "card" I don't understand how the phones don't work most of the time, or get cut off after only one or two minutes, and then we get charged again if they call back, and it counts as the second phone call of the month. UNFAIR! Why should prison phone calls be any more expensive than a call from any other payphone? It makes no sense. Yes, they have broken the law, they are criminals, locked up in cages like lions, and many are from low income families. It's unfair, first they take 80% of the money anyone sends them to pay court costs, restitution, etc., then want to charge \$100.00 for four fifteen minute phone calls MAXIMUM calls per month ... FOUR!? It takes a month for letters to get to them,

and if they're lucky they get to use a phone once or twice per month. Something needs to be done. Either loosen up the visitations and keep prisoners incarcerated near their family members, or pass a law that lowers the rates to whatever the local phone company such as Verizon charges. My son is in prison on probation violations because he is a drug addict, and the judge as well as the probation officer failed to do what they originally sentenced him to, which was a year long INPATIENT treatment program. It is unfair to those who are innocent, the parents, siblings, grandparents, children and other loved ones of the person in prison. The legal system is broken as are our prisons and the phones within the decrepit walls.

# 568:

Apr 18, 2009, Barbara Jones, Arizona

# 567:

Apr 17, 2009, Urethra Placenta Vulva, New York

yo yo lemme be axin u sumfin how de hell im posed to keep in touch wif all mah babys daddys in jail ah gots 8 lil niglets and all 8 o dem chillruns daddys all bees in jail

# 566:

Apr 17, 2009, Jo Ann Brown, Texas

I am signing the petition to lower the cost of calls because my son telephone me and the cost of the call was over \$13.00 for 5 minutes on AT&T. This is highway robbery. It should be illegal. Please find a telephone company that charges less than \$3.00 for 15 minutes for instate calls. thanks

# 565:

Apr 16, 2009, Secundra Beasley, Ohio

Prisoners need to stay in contact with their families so they can transition back into the world. Prisoners need reduced rates so one portion of their transition into the world is seamless.

# 564:

Apr 16, 2009, Joy Boelens, Netherlands

# 563:

Apr 16, 2009, Robert Wideman, Pennsylvania

# 562:

Apr 16, 2009, Bobbi Scott, Oklahoma

For more impact, add a personal comment here

# 561:

Apr 16, 2009, Kimberly Tindall, Georgia

# 560:

Apr 15, 2009, Anonymous, Wyoming

# 559:

Apr 15, 2009, Mary Snyder, New York

Our 21 yr. old son has been incarcerated for the past 15 months. Needless to say, our phone bills have been outrageous. Yes, our loved ones did wrong, yes, they are being punished, but why punish their family too? These phone companies are making big bucks on our grief. The inmates need that connection to their loved ones. Especially the inmates who are still children themselves, and have never been away from their families until now. It bad enough they are being treated like animals in the prison systems. Even caged animals are fed better than our inmates. When they're feeling low, which happens alot on the inside, that phone call home, hearing a loved ones voice, picks up their spirits. The phone companies are already making a fortune with their ridiculously high prices they charge us every month for our phone bills. It's time to put a stop to these greedy companies.

# 558:

Apr 15, 2009, Jamie Lee, California

# 557:

Apr 14, 2009, Michelle Lebowitz, Florida

# 556:

Apr 14, 2009, Sheila Strain, Indiana

# 555:

Apr 14, 2009, Anonymous, Nebraska

We are told to be there for our loved ones and the chances for them to make it out and to be able to over come the life when they come out however the phone is so high HOW can anyone be able to support and be there when our family & friends need to speak to us, the rates need to come down for support reason for the family as well as the inmates,& the children for the next generation to keep them from going there as well as the connection of the family unit.

NEBRASKA

# 554:

Apr 14, 2009, Marissa North, Washington

# 553:

Apr 14, 2009, Marc Miller, California

How strange that monopolies are illegal because they allow a company to charge anything for their service and get away with it, yet our prison system would use the same tactics to tax prisoners' friends and family. Our own justice system is breaking a law here by literally imprisoning people and forcing them to rob their friends and family, benefiting a phone company that has an exclusive arrangement with the prison. That they're incarcerated is beside the point -- these convicts do not suffer the way friends & family do.

# 552:

Apr 14, 2009, Jeanne Murray, South Carolina

As the Chair of the South Carolina Re-entry Initiative (SCRI) and as a private citizen, I find it infuriating that prisoners and their families are held hostage by the phone companies and the

prison industries system. Punish the guilty, but are we all guilty because a family member made incredibly stupid choices? Why should WE be punished also? Guilt by association?

# 551:

Apr 14, 2009, Anonymous, Texas

# 550:

Apr 14, 2009, Tracy Spaulding, Maine

# 549:

Apr 14, 2009, Desiree Worden, California

my husband is currently incarcerated and i just cant pay for the calls. i am a college student trying to get by on the little money i have and i still need to support my husband in the prison. with putting money in books to accepting these calls i just cant seem to hold and type of money in my pocket and if i dont answer his calls then who else is?! and who if not me will keep his hope and faith up!? we need the prices to lower significantly. please

# 548:

Apr 13, 2009, Anonymous, Minnesota

For my husband to call home a \$7.00 phone card last 5 minutes. That is \$1.40 a minute

# 547:

Apr 13, 2009, Montanna Wuertenburg, Texas

# 546:

Apr 13, 2009, Lizabeth Routson, Texas

Sure, I choose to accept and pay for calls from someone who did a crime and is in prison, but why should the telephone companies that monopolize the prison systems be allowed to continue to take advantage of the american taxpayer. Because they know if I want to talk to my friend, I have no other choice but to use their service. This makes them worse than the criminals, because they are being rewarded for fleecing the people!

# 545:

Apr 13, 2009, Lennette Marquez, Florida

My son's father is in prison. Neither I, nor anyone in his family can afford to accept calls from him. My son constantly asks for his father and must settle on me reading a letter received from him. Im sure it would be every nice for him to be able tot ell his dad about hus day at school, or the touchdown he made @ pee-wee football or even how he scraped his knee when he fell off of his bike. Please help usmake this easier on everyone. The person incarcerated and paying for the crime is almost never the only one affected. Thank you.

# 544:

Apr 13, 2009, Anonymous, Tennessee

# 543:

Apr 13, 2009, Charlotte Gibbs, Ohio

# 542:

Apr 12, 2009, Anonymous, North Carolina

# 541:

Apr 11, 2009, PEGGY SGRO, Tennessee

# 540:

Apr 11, 2009, Kim Trammell, Pennsylvania

# 539:

Apr 11, 2009, Anonymous, South Carolina

My name is Kellen, and my boyfriend was just expedited back to Florida. He has no family or loved ones there and I am in South Carolina. It cost SIX dollars a call, and SEVENTY FIVE CENTS every minute. I can't visit him every week, and barely once a month. Its not fair that even though yes, he is in jail, that I have to spend almost every cent I have left over just to hear his voice. We even have to cut calls short sometimes to save on the bill, and only get to tell eachother we love eachother for almost TEN dollars. This needs to be changed.

# 538:

Apr 11, 2009, Marti Hatfield, Indiana

With a son in prison 2000 miles away, the cost for collect calls is prohibitive, especially when you are disabled and short on money. I love to hear his voice, and he really looks forward to our weekly calls and says they are the high point of his week.

# 537:

Apr 11, 2009, Deidre Pique, Missouri

My husband is in 4 ten years I have 2 teenager girls and live without him I have only SSI, I only get to talk to him once a month please help us

# 536:

Apr 11, 2009, Steve Garrett, Ohio

We need a Federal law that will apply to the rates of all states regarding tarriffed rates, and intrastate rates, plus lower the surcharges of \$2.50 per call. I have a copy of the contract for Ohio. The state law cap is at \$0.36 cents per minute for inner state calls which is set by Ohio PUCO. For out of state calls through MCI is at \$0.55 cents per minute. The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and corrections receives NOT LESS than 38%, which is the commission fee, therefore it can actually be higher.

# 535:

Apr 11, 2009, Julia Calderon, Colorado

# 534:

Apr 11, 2009, Anonymous, Texas

# 533:

Apr 11, 2009, Anonymous, Texas

# 532:

Apr 11, 2009, Abril Aragon, California

# 531:

Apr 11, 2009, Anonymous, Texas

# 530:

Apr 11, 2009, Esther Quintero, Texas

# 529:

Apr 11, 2009, Blanca Quintero, Texas

It's ridicouliuse,the only one company we have charges outrageous prices, we are not given a choice!

# 528:

Apr 10, 2009, Anonymous, Mississippi

# 527:

Apr 10, 2009, Zandra Conway, Georgia

Too many people of color in the system, we must do something about going women of color in the system!

# 526:

Apr 10, 2009, Karen McCauley, Virginia

# 525:

Apr 10, 2009, Vicki Forte, Ohio

# 524:

Apr 10, 2009, Nancy Daly, New York

# 523:

Apr 9, 2009, Jennette Brannon, Alabama

# 522:

Apr 9, 2009, Phillip R. Trujillo, New Mexico

I have my phone service with QWEST whom bills me on behalf of Public Communications Services, INC and there is no consistency from day to day, and call to call for their charges per minute. It's as if some person is playing roulette or a blinfolded game like the pin the tail on the donkey to determine the charges for each call. I sacrifice and have had to hold two jobs for two years now, so that my son can maintain the close relationship he had with his daughter before he went into the prison system. It is so important to me that the relationship is maintained that I spend between 3600.00 and 4000.00 per year just so they can communicate with each other pretty much on a day to day basis for an average of about 5 minutes a call(the 1st 15-30 seconds of which are voice instructions regarding the call), but I know too well that most people are

fortunate if they are able to allow one phone call a month if even that. I think it is a shame and a disgrace that loved ones are not able to maintain contact with their incarcerated family members, and I believe that such outrages contribute to the poor results regarding so-called rehabilitation and also recidivism of the prison population. I would guess that if there is any regulation it is likely as we have seen a lot lately some corrupt regulator(s) are having their deep pockets lined by these phone service companies.

# 521:

Apr 8, 2009, Diana Santiso, Florida

# 520:

Apr 8, 2009, Elvera Williams, Maryland

Not only the cost for calls but the abuses and criminal schemes of phone providers are outrageous. My complaint to both FCC and PSC were full of lies and the authorities have allowed it. Elvera Williams

# 519:

Apr 8, 2009, Jeff Lamborn, Washington

# 518:

Apr 8, 2009, Peggy Duncan, Texas

Peggy Duncan

# 517:

Apr 7, 2009, L.J. Davis, California

Contact between prisoners and their families is so important for the welfare of all of us. The unfair cost of telephone calls is just another way the prison industry punishes us all.

# 516:

Apr 7, 2009, Vern Herd, Washington

Let's not continue to punish the families and friends of the incarcerated by charging outrageous costs for telephone calls that help families and friends maintain and/or repair these bonds.

# 515:

Apr 7, 2009, Rebecca Stevens, Florida

# 514:

Apr 7, 2009, Paulette Rogers, Virginia

We need to talk with our loved ones as much as they need to talk to us. Some live so far away to visit very often. We try to send a little money now and then to help them with the items they have to buy, but the phone bill is so high we can't do much. To be able to hear your son or husband's voice means so much to us. I don't think it is right in this day and time that we have to keep a land line in order to talk. Something should be done about that as well. The institution picks the phone company that charges the most because they get a percentage of the money collected.

# 513:

Apr 6, 2009, Ruby Phillips, Washington

Please increase the connection possible between prisoners and their families by reducing the profit on phone calls from prison. Connection with family members is a crucial element of prisoners' motivation to live and grow in a positive manner.

# 512:

Apr 6, 2009, Harold Wilson, Pennsylvania

# 511:

Apr 6, 2009, Vitoria Iannacone, New Jersey

# 510:

Apr 6, 2009, Danielle Markowski, New York

my boyfriend is in prison and the calls are outrageously expensive.. its horrible to not be able to talk to your loved one more

# 509:

Apr 5, 2009, Felicia Young, Oklahoma

# 508:

Apr 5, 2009, Lucy Karczynski, Illinois

# 507:

Apr 5, 2009, Anonymous, Ohio

We already pay enough taxes to keep them in there. Why should we have to pay all of this money to talk to friends and loved ones.

# 506:

Apr 5, 2009, Anonymous, Ohio

People should be able to talk to their loved ones for less, i mean our tax money already pays for them to be in there. So please lower the cost of these collect calls.

# 505:

Apr 4, 2009, Khalilah Montgomery, Pennsylvania

# 504:

Apr 4, 2009, Cynthia Button, Illinois

Since when is gouging legal in the United States?

# 503:

Apr 4, 2009, Donna Weber, Illinois

How can we ever change our criminal justice system as Sen. Jim Webb and other lawmakers know is highly dysfunctional when it is a system based on \$\$\$ only. From the police who shake down those breaking the law or steal from homes during a "bust" to the private prison corporations, those working in the prisons who are breaking the law by allowing contraband in, and, the rip-off phone companies???. Inmates who have contact with and encouragement from

their families are most likely to be able to re-build their lives. Why should a basic phone call rip-off working class and poor working class families who are trying to support a loved one? Many are in prisons because they are young and may have been involved with low-level drugs that should be legal anyway..we let people kill themselves & others by using alcohol..why not marijuana?? These young people need contact through telephone support..we should NOT be supporting the prison corps and the prison phone corps..doesn't our current economic situation indicate that we should invest in people first? As Sen. Webb says our prison system indicates that we are either the most evil people on earth or our justice system is very broken.

# 502:

Apr 3, 2009, Denean Joubert, Louisiana

# 501:

Apr 3, 2009, Natalie Bonnet, Oregon

I just think its ridicoulise that only one company we have to choose from, charges outrageous prices.

# 500:

Apr 2, 2009, Sande Reattoir, Georgia

When call from an inmate can be approximately \$20.00 for 15 minutes and you only bring home \$250 per week you just can accept call from you husband because then you don't have enough money to buy gas (at \$2.00 a gallon) to get to and from work for the next check. Yes, a per-call cap is needed.

# 499:

Apr 2, 2009, Aondrea Mink, Indiana

# 498:

Mar 31, 2009, Mourad Ben yousef, Ohio

# 497:

Mar 31, 2009, Anonymous, Idaho

# 496:

Mar 31, 2009, Anonymous, Florida

The amount they charge even for a local call is \$2.50 and for a call 2 hours away, they charge \$6.50 they are making millions off our hard working money

# 495:

Mar 31, 2009, Tabatha Mackie-smith, Florida

# 494:

Mar 30, 2009, April Flippin, North Carolina

# 493:

Mar 30, 2009, Douglas Ganfield, Iowa

It cost ME \$20.00 for a 15 minute phone call from my son in Louisiana in prison. This is

monopolistic ROBBERY of a captive audience. I can call anywhere in the COUNTRY as much as I want for a flat \$25.00 per month, but cannot talk to my son unless he calls me at the ripoff rates.

# 492:

Mar 30, 2009, Ted Bogan, Virginia

In Virginia we set up a local number and used Cons Call Home, but GTL the state service provider would not allow collect calls against the local number. Somebody does it better, somebody does it cheaper, but it is not allowed in Virginia.

# 491:

Mar 30, 2009, JULIE COTTINGHAM, United Kingdom

# 490:

Mar 30, 2009, Tom Ewell, Washington

I have worked as a volunteer in prisons for the past twenty years. I have always been concerned about the negative impact of collect calls - their high cost and thus the loss of contact with family. We were always told it wasn't possible to change this policy for security reasons. I understand that it is now possible to secure the calls. Please act on this issue. Tom Ewell

# 489:

Mar 30, 2009, Robert Robertson, Pennsylvania

Please lower the outrageous cost of prison phone calls. Thanks.

# 488:

Mar 30, 2009, Anonymous, Oregon

Its hard enough when your loved one goes to prison trying to support a family without there father, then because of the cost of collect calls so he can talk to his family, the phone gets shut off. so the inmate looses all contact with loved ones. Lets lower these collect calls PLEASE

# 487:

Mar 29, 2009, Anonymous, Idaho

# 486:

Mar 29, 2009, Anonymous, Tennessee

cost way to much

# 485:

Mar 29, 2009, Mary Moore, Tennessee

My husband is in prison for his first time. Everybody makes mistakes, no matter who you are. If he can't call home to his family due to cost, his 1 year old son can't hear his voice to know daddy is still in his life. Calling its his only way to feel part of his family. We're goin tru enough not being able to visit him. So prices shouldn't be so high we can't talk to him either. With everything falling apart in the U.S. it will be hard for family to be able to pay out money for phone calls so please make it to where we can still talk to our loved ones.

# 484:

Mar 29, 2009, Nathan "Chip" Arnold, Louisiana

The high cost of phone calls from prisoners to their loved one is just plain old fashion robbery. The excuse for these high cost based on security reasons by the phone company is a joke. The real reason is pure greed because, as they say, "they can do it". It is not the prisoners who pay for it directly, but their loved one, who, at 99.9 percent of the time cannot pay these robbery charges. Just like the housing market took advantage of the poorest people to buy home's with subprime loans, our phone companies have always took advantage of prisoners and their loved one, with the prison system's help and blessing on these high cost of phone calls. What a disgrace.

# 483:

Mar 28, 2009, Marpessa Kuperdua, Delaware

Jacking up the costs of prison phone calls is robbery, plain and simple, and victimizes inmate families and their children to further line the pockets of greedy corporate America. Who are the real criminals?

# 482:

Mar 28, 2009, Mark Maxey, Oklahoma

# 481:

Mar 28, 2009, Kenneth Stephens, Illinois

I was in jail; cause is not important and I couldn't get anyone to take my calls because they'd heard how much they cost. Even to buy a phone card in jail/prison its \$10 for 20 min. That's just crazy.

# 480:

Mar 28, 2009, Lynn Tanner, Missouri

Due to the costs of my phone bills from jailhouse calls; I lost my satellite service, internet, house phone, and my other bills went delinquent. I didn't know the calls were that expensive.

# 479:

Mar 28, 2009, Anonymous, Georgia

I think that it should be free to call from prison. You are correct when you say that most inmates come from low-income families and that's why they are in jail in the first place. These families are going to be further disadvantaged if the bill being proposed in Georgia to make families pay room and board for inmates passes.

# 478:

Mar 28, 2009, Monte Tanner, Missouri

I took in a 16 yr old kid. His Dad was in jail. He'd call us daily. My phone bill went over \$1000 one month and we couldn't pay the bills...all because of phone calls from jail. We weren't going to tell the boy he couldn't talk to his dad. He was going through enough problems. Make this easier on us all and lower the costs.

# 477:

Mar 28, 2009, Megan Rhea, Illinois

My mother took in a boy who's parents were in prison. They were quite poor. Due to the parents calling to check on their son; my mothers phone bill went up to \$1000 and she couldn't pay her bills. No one is helping my mother financially; even with the added burden of the extra child in her home. The least we can do is lower the costs of calls from prison.

# 476:

Mar 28, 2009, Robbie Carter, Alabama

What they are doing to us is highway robbery plain and simple. What does it take to make big corporations work with people instead of against them! The root of all evil is money and these guys don't mind committing extortion as long as the law won't prosecute them for it.

# 475:

Mar 27, 2009, Brandi Morgan, Tennessee

My boyfriend is lock up at Northwest in tiptonville Tn and for a 30 min call its like \$7. He trys to talk to his daughter every night but the calls are outrageous and with the job market like it is who can afford this...

# 474:

Mar 27, 2009, Jody Butte, Pennsylvania

# 473:

Mar 27, 2009, Paula Dudek, Pennsylvania

It's hypocritical that our prison system's goal is to "keep families together" but make it twice as hard to do so with skyrocketing phone rates. It would be nice to get "regular" rates if not discounted rates.

# 472:

Mar 26, 2009, Barbara Bennett, Colorado

Furthermore, contact with loved ones strengthens healthy emotional ties and will help reduce recidivism.

# 471:

Mar 26, 2009, James Pomeroy, Virginia

There are far too many private companies and individuals proffiting from the U.S. prison system. Commisaries and phone contracts unfairly take advantage of prisoners and their families.

# 470:

Mar 26, 2009, Desiree Shepherd, Pennsylvania

# 469:

Mar 26, 2009, Anonymous, California

# 468:

Mar 26, 2009, Anonymous, California

Please lower the cost.

# 467:

Mar 25, 2009, Juliet Stewart-Craig, Canada

My husband and I are Canadians. My husband is being held in the US and the collect call companies don't connect to Canadian area coded land lines. My husband was detained on March 13th and he's still not able to call home. His daughter finally received calls from him after setting up an account. Her conversations with him have been very brief and has cost her over \$150 CND dollars. Here in Canada, collect calls cost \$1 per call regardless how long you talk. I think that the US system is criminal. Your country takes so much from the citizens but give nothing back. For a country so rich, we across the border can't understand why the poverty level is where it is. Our Canadian government pays for health care and ensures that their people don't sleep on the streets. They provide condo living for the less fortunate. Therefore, America should be ashamed about how they keep their poor poor. There seems to be only two levels in America...Rich and Poor. As for the inmate collect call system, this is something that the outside free world shouldn't have to go broke just to hear the voices of their loved ones behind bars. This could be one of the reasons that more people commit crime in America. Your Government doesn't really care about the poor and make it their mission statement to keep the less fortunate way below the poverty level. Although my husband's serving time in the US, I will make sure that he leans on faith and God to get him through your system. I will not allow your American system to put me below the poverty level by simply taking calls from him in prison there. I will make sure I send him a pad and pen to write down his feelings and limit the calls to once a month. Canadians aren't fools to your American system. I will pray for all the families suffering from this outrageous abuse by the American Government all the best. Put your faith in God and pray that change will come. Amen!

# 466:

Mar 25, 2009, Anonymous, Wisconsin

# 465:

Mar 25, 2009, Shirley Rogahn, Wisconsin

# 464:

Mar 25, 2009, Vivian Loar, Virginia

These phone calls these guys make are all the hope some of them have... Please think of this and help us!! The cost of these calls is way to much! Concerned Mom

# 463:

Mar 25, 2009, Kris Mangione, Alabama

# 462:

Mar 25, 2009, Tena Newsome, Alabama

# 461:

Mar 25, 2009, Mahasin Pendergrass, Pennsylvania

# 460:

Mar 25, 2009, Anonymous, Pennsylvania

# 459:

Mar 24, 2009, Teresa Epps, Florida

Dear President Obama I am a single parent, mother of an inmate in a correctional facility. I do not like the road my daughter chose but she is still my daughter and I like encouraging her. It is truly unfair the price of calls from a prison. I did not comit a crime but are being treated unfairly in the price of these calls. When is this injustice going to stopl.

# 458:

Mar 24, 2009, Cecilia Coleman, Pennsylvania

cecilia coleman

# 457:

Mar 24, 2009, Crystal Monday, Kentucky

why does it cost so much for a inmate to call home!!!!

# 456:

Mar 24, 2009, Carla Stern, California

Allow them the humanity of their lifeline to the world ... the ability to speak with their loved ones! As more revelations are made of those incarcerated who are innocent please consider the long term affects if we take this away.

# 455:

Mar 24, 2009, Theresa Shoatz, New York

The prison telephone system is a crime, and has punished family members too long. The family members must take control. We have the power to tell the prison telephone companies what rates we are willing to pay. We have to create a telephone strike tell the prisoners not to call home for 2 months. tiye@riseup.net

# 454:

Mar 24, 2009, Alexis Duran, California

Needs regulation,the prisons make enough money,they should not be getting kick backs,while charging families,grossly with expensive phone calls.Families of prisoners,just don't have the money,since the primary breadwinners are in prisons

# 453:

Mar 23, 2009, April Faraschuk, California

# 452:

Mar 23, 2009, Tonya Valentine, Washington D.C.

Please lower the cost. My 19 year old son is 2281.29 miles away from home. It's bad enough I can't afford to go and visit him.

# 451:

Mar 23, 2009, Barbara Pomeroy, Virginia

The telephone rates for people who are incarcerated are often very high, and they require a land

line telephone be used. It makes it difficult for families to maintain contact with an incarcerated person due to the high cost of phone service. The contact with family members is extremely important for the inmates future success.

# 450:

Mar 23, 2009, Hybachi LeMar, Pennsylvania

# 449:

Mar 23, 2009, Tony Glad, California

I believe thta the prisons are punishing the families of innates by charging them large costs to accept calls and then harass the family by making sure they pay their bill as thgey go instead of once a month. This is not what should be done for people just trying to deal with the tragedy of having someone in prison

# 448:

Mar 23, 2009, Beth Marie Rexford, Illinois

My communication to my loved one is limited because of the outrageously high rates of phone calls.

# 447:

Mar 23, 2009, Anonymous, Texas

# 446:

Mar 23, 2009, Melanie Branche-Goff, California

# 445:

Mar 23, 2009, Dee Pasqualin, New Jersey

Not only is our family memeber taken away leaving us with one income, to raise our family with, we incure all this cost of the prison calls. It is not fair to all of us.

# 444:

Mar 23, 2009, JL Henriques, California

I keep a chart of calls I receive from prisons. Global TeleLink consistently charges me for calls I do not get or take. I had to file a complaint with the FCC after attempting to get a reply to my e mails and phone calls to one of the representatives [JW] at GTL. I had e mailed my chart with the questionable calls in hot pink. Long story short: the woman told me they have their list and I have mine. My list means nothing. The rates absolutely need to be lowered. Secondly, the phone companies along with the prisons who profit from the ridiculous rates and lack of professionalism also need to be held criminally accountable. Relatives, friends, attorneys, anyone in contact with people in prison need to stop being so apathetic. File complaints with the FCC about every issue that you have with the prison phone companies. Bottem line? prisons are big business. Take a stand!

# 443:

Mar 23, 2009, Cheryl Onstad, Washington

It is time to lower the cost of calls from the prisons. To many people loose there phones because it cost way to much to talk to their loved ones. I know I am one that lost my phone to many times

due to the cost from my husband. So please make it easier for a loved one to phone home. Give them a phone card. Fix it to where families can send the funds they can to go on their phone card. Make it easier.

# 442:

Mar 23, 2009, Tory Pegram, Louisiana

# 441:

Mar 23, 2009, Ans Santiago, New York

im a mom of have a son doing life in pa sci fayette he in the shu unit and he being abuse by the co in there co play with there food with there mind too ana o a mom of a life in pa

# 440:

Mar 23, 2009, Ralf Dellhofen, Germany

# 439:

Mar 23, 2009, Lisa Lumumba, Virginia

# 438:

Mar 23, 2009, Leonna Brandao, Massachusetts

# 437:

Mar 23, 2009, Jerry Marzinsky, Arizona

You are bilking the fatherless and motherless people who can least afford this kind of rip off and increasing the chances that their children end up in prison. What is the matter with you people?

# 436:

Mar 23, 2009, Deborah Sandherr, Pennsylvania

# 435:

Mar 23, 2009, Keith DeBlasio, Maryland

Check out our conference and our work : <http://www.smartoncrimesolutions.org/events.htm>

# 434:

Mar 23, 2009, Esther Brown, Alabama

# 433:

Mar 23, 2009, Marjorie Malana, California

# 432:

Mar 23, 2009, Sharon Long, Pennsylvania

# 431:

Mar 22, 2009, Angela Strickland, Indiana

# 430:

Mar 22, 2009, Marti Smith, North Carolina  
Pls help ~Marti & Jr. Smith

# 429:  
Mar 22, 2009, Maeve McLaughlin, New York

# 428:  
Mar 22, 2009, Kelly Kovack, Pennsylvania  
My Fiance is in SCI Pittsburgh. He is my 10 month old daughters father and we dont get to visit him that often. I know communication with the outside world is a vital part of an inmates mental health over the long years being incarcerated. I write him as much as possible but communication is limited. It would be a great service to friends, family and loved ones of inmates if they could call family and friends without feeling like it was a burden on the ones they care about. Please greatly consider making collect calls cheaper or free all together for families of the incarcerated in this country. Thank you. -Kelly Kovack

# 427:  
Mar 22, 2009, Marilyn Feaster, Missouri

# 426:  
Mar 21, 2009, Sandy Marie, Louisiana  
I agree that the inmate and the family are already being punished. This phone situation also stops the children of these inmates from exchanging their life with each other. The children of these inmates are lonely and they just want to share their daily activities with there mom or there dad, possibly their grandmother's, grandfather's, or perhaps their brother or sister. Already, the inmates eat very poorly unless you put money in their accounts. I think this should be against a human's rights.

# 425:  
Mar 21, 2009, Louann OSTRANDER, Ohio  
I so feel for those behind bars, so many of them do not belong there, they are placed there by a flawed justice system, rather than being put in treatment.. The cost for treatment is much less than incarceration, yet the major portion are put away How sad, for all of us, for families, the person who has had their freedom taken away, and the only support they have is talking to someone who cares, and what about those who have noone? I have a son who has been incarcerated, and I have seen so many flaws in our justice system. It is heartbreaking, why? Put these people into programs that help them, most are related to drugs, and why not help them in that way? I implore all of you to heed this. and thank you.

# 424:  
Mar 21, 2009, Penny Dixon, Indiana  
i am a single mother of one !! my son,, who is incarcerated he is all i have he is 3 1/2 hours from me . very hard to get to him all we have for communication is mail and the phone,, right now my correctional billing has me blocked with a spending limit of 150.00 it sure doesn,take a lot of calls to get your bill to that,, i will get it turned back on but it will take a while,,if they were cheaper i could hear his voice more often,,thanks for listening,,penny

# 423:

Mar 20, 2009, Kimbelry Croft, Virginia

Why can't we use cell phones to receive calls? This would reduce the cost of phone calls from over \$7 for 20 minutes to less than \$2. The local jail system allows us to use cell phones - why not the federal system? The phone service provider can block calls until money is put on a prepaid account. Also, why is call forwarding not allowed? I can purchase a phone number with the same area code as the prison my brother is in but the phone provider states that this is illegal, even though the phone number is listed as my home number and is only being forwarded from one area code to another.

# 422:

Mar 19, 2009, Rebecca Jones, Illinois

Please put a stop to the extortion!

# 421:

Mar 19, 2009, April Harbison, Arkansas

# 420:

Mar 19, 2009, Robbin Lamonica, Louisiana

When a person receives a prison sentence, his family embarks on this hardship also. Since it is the family paying for the calls, why punish the family by charging high rates?

# 419:

Mar 18, 2009, Erin Wheeler, Illinois

I have to wonder everyday what is going on with my husband because I cannot afford to talk to him. My children cannot talk to their own father because I don't have the money. It is ridiculous that we are being punished by not being able to talk to our loved ones. It should be a right of everyone not just the rich. Money should not be an object when it comes to communication of a loved one. And with record numbers of people in prison even for the smallest charges something must change.

# 418:

Mar 18, 2009, Michael Singletary, Georgia

# 417:

Mar 18, 2009, Julie Entizne, Oregon

# 416:

Mar 17, 2009, Janis Palmer, Florida

Mr. President, I hope that you will help in lowering the price of prison phone calls for the innocent family members and loved ones. Thank you, Janis Palmer

# 415:

Mar 17, 2009, Pamela Mcallister, Georgia

Please, someone help. How can we survive as a family without your help.

# 414:

Mar 17, 2009, Maria Tarin, Texas

I think they should lower the prices because my boyfriend only calls me once a week cause the calls are expensive and he doesnt want to bring up the bill...For 10 mins. its \$10 which sucks cause sometimes my bill does come up pretty high but i pay cause besides letters its the only way i have contact with him because he's 7 hrs away from me so that dont help much...Plz lower the prices...It benefits us their loved ones out here and we can help them more inside..Thanx for making this petition...

# 413:

Mar 17, 2009, Anonymous, Alabama

The costs are so high it is just ridiculous. How can anyone especially in this recession be expected to pay these high costs then when we send money to help our loved ones it is all taken for restitution, that should be paid after prison. Not taken away when they get what little we are able to send so they can buy some coffee and envelopes and stamps which have also been price jacked. So those who cant afford to shovel out thousands of dollars cant even contact their loved ones and their loved ones cant even write back. **THEY ARE STILL HUMAN NO MATTER WHAT CRIME THEY COMMITTED!!!!**

# 412:

Mar 17, 2009, Alice F. Stephenson, New Mexico

Please do something to lower the cost of collect calls from prisons across the US. These calls are ridiculously high. There are no alternatives to paying the collect call prices. You can shop around for lower telephone service, digital....etc., but collect is totally at the mercy of the companies that provide the service from the prisons. MCI used to have a total monopoly of this service and I no longer see them on the phone bills, but Global Tel is almost as bad. California, for instance, does not allow phone cards, that give a decent price....you must use Global Tel and their rates are prohibitive. Some states ( Michigan, Wisconsin, Missouri to name a few, allow the inmates to purchase calling cards from their trust fund accounts).....

# 411:

Mar 17, 2009, Debbie Harrison, West Virginia

The bills that we have to pay for our loved ones to talk to us is out of hand and something needs done, enough of our money is taken to house and cloth them that we should not have to be penalized to talk to them also.

# 410:

Mar 17, 2009, Anonymous, Michigan

# 409:

Mar 16, 2009, Brittany Davis, North Carolina

# 408:

Mar 16, 2009, Anonymous, Pennsylvania

Have a heart don't make us pay hundreds of dollars for an average phone call. It's not fair to us. It's all about money..

# 407:

Mar 16, 2009, Alvernhe Nathalie, France

# 406:

Mar 16, 2009, Meg Fullam, Georgia

# 405:

Mar 15, 2009, Anonymous, Oklahoma

i strongly believe that it is ridiculous that we are paying taxes towards the facilities and putting in more money for their commissary and now paying for a 15 min phone call that gets disconnected at times is absurd. The rate that we are paying is too much. We are already losing a loved one. and we now have to take on twice as much responsibility to maintain a healthy life for the children and be able to pay the bills. If the government cared they would lower the cost because a proven fact is that keeping in contact with loved ones is KEY to a good support when the inmate is released. They most likely will not be back in.

# 404:

Mar 15, 2009, Shai Davis, California

the rates for prison calls are way too much i mean the guys in there barely have enough money to get by and we barely have little or no money to help our loved ones while they're in prison so what makes them think we can afford those outrageous telephone cost?

# 403:

Mar 14, 2009, Natalie KNight, Florida

# 402:

Mar 14, 2009, Anonymous, North Carolina

# 401:

Mar 14, 2009, Cahy Berry, California

I think the impact on the families are hard enough that they should have the people in jail punished not the families

# 400:

Mar 14, 2009, Margalo Murray, Florida

# 399:

Mar 14, 2009, Bill C, Germany

# 398:

Mar 14, 2009, William Rand, Florida

Dear Mr President, Please use the power of your office to reduce the price of phone calls from the prison. It will be a great benefit to all concerned. Thank you.

# 397:

Mar 14, 2009, SYLVERE Olivier, France

# 396:

Mar 13, 2009, Anonymous, Florida

Please lower the cost of calls from the prisons. These costs are punishing family members and loved ones, children, spouses, etc.. Thank you, Jill Rand

# 395:

Mar 13, 2009, Kristi Joy, Florida

# 394:

Mar 13, 2009, Pamela Varnam, North Carolina

Inmates and their family need to connect!! Both inmate and family members need support from each other!! Make it affordable to communicate. Why punish the family by charging so much. All this is is another way of cashing in on human suffering!!!

# 393:

Mar 13, 2009, Mac Prison Fone Lingo, California

I can make all the calls I need from one phone bill. Charging prisoners who only make a little anyway just seems really outrageous. The facilities should have free phones for inmates, or at most only charge nominal fees to encourage limited usage so all inmates have access.

# 392:

Mar 12, 2009, Jamie Beighley, Pennsylvania

# 391:

Mar 12, 2009, Angela Adams, Virginia

there are less expensive services \$1 for 20 min but they are being blocked by gtl in virginia. GTL charges \$7 for 20 min. Isn't this illigal? if not it should be.

# 390:

Mar 12, 2009, Anonymous, North Carolina

Im from North carolina and the phone company that offers services via phone calls have changed. The old company charges \$6.95 fee to add all the money u wanted to your prepaid acct. The new company charges \$5.50 per \$25.00. So if I put \$100.00 on my prepaid acct I have to pay a fee of \$22.00. Thats 22% plus if we get disconnected we still have to pay and cant disute it. This is a rip off.

# 389:

Mar 12, 2009, Nina McGonegal, Delaware

I have been dealing with "prison calls" and their ridiculous costs for many years. I am raising my son's two children and feel it is important for them to keep their relationship in tact. A phone call can make all the difference in a child's life. Unfortunately, I am single and on disability ~ why is the family punished?

# 387:

Mar 12, 2009, J B Bell, Canada

Communication humanizes. Not only does cutting off inmates from their support systems (who are more likely to help them stay straight) make no sense from a criminal-justice perspective, one has to wonder how companies are profiting from a literally captive market. Everywhere else, rates are plummeting. There is simply no reason for arbitrary, high prices on communication.

# 386:

Mar 12, 2009, Elizabeth Large, California

Being in prison is hard enough on the incarcerated but it also affects the family and friends. Please make it financially possible to stay in touch with our loved ones in prison. At the current prices, I cannot afford to call my dear friend who needs my support.

# 385:

Mar 11, 2009, Sandra Gadberry, Washington

Children of inmates did not commit the crime. The Family of these inmates also did not commit the crime for which the inmate is being punished for. Please do not continue to punish the families/children of inmates by making the cost of a call to expensive for them to be able to have.

# 384:

Mar 11, 2009, Noemie Maxwell Vassilakis, Washington

This is a no-brainer. People who maintain relationships with family and friends while in prison are much less likely to commit crimes again after release. It's crazy to make that contact more, not less difficult. In addition, families of incarcerated people are already often living on the economic margins. The cost of these collect calls -- on top of the economic hardship of often having a family breadwinner in prison -- places even more of a burden on those families.

# 383:

Mar 11, 2009, Anonymous, New Jersey

I'm a single mother with three kids just barely making it financially and have a loved one incarcerated. It keeps us all sane to hear his voice but with the present cost of collect calls, we all have to suffer because we can't afford to talk to him. We desperately need this to change. Thank you.

# 382:

Mar 10, 2009, BARBARA VAMPRAN, Louisiana

I AGREE THE FAMILY MEMBER SHOULD NOT BE PUNISH WITH THE HIGH COST OF THESE PHONES CALL. THIS NOT ONLY KEEPS FAMILY TOGETHER IN CONTACT WITH THERE LOVE ONES. ALSO THIS EFFECT CHILDREN AS WELL WHEN THERE PARENT THAT HAS TO TAKE CARE OF THEM IS WORKING HARD TO KEEP THE CALL COMING. THE MIDDLE CLASS AND THE POOR CITIZENS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO PAY THESE HIGH BILLS. WHEN WE ALL KNOW IT DOES NOT COST THE MUCH.

# 381:

Mar 10, 2009, Jeanne Marcoccio, Massachusetts

# 380:

Mar 10, 2009, Debra Hughes, Louisiana

Families need communication to heal and to give hope. This is very difficult with the extremely high cost of each phone call.

# 379:

Mar 10, 2009, Padd O'connell, Ireland

Hi from PaddoConnell"[encouragechange.blogspot.com](http://encouragechange.blogspot.com)"im forty years writing about the unfair unequal legal system that pertains in the world. slan.

# 378:

Mar 10, 2009, Tracy Meyer, California

# 377:

Mar 10, 2009, Candice Comisi, New York

# 376:

Mar 10, 2009, Daivd Stapleton, California

I thought monopolys were elegal here. Why can the prison charge \$5.00 for a 25 cent call. This is imoral.

# 375:

Mar 10, 2009, Sue String, New Jersey

The cost of the phone calls are very expensive. The distance is far for us and the calls are the only thing we have left..It's almost like a visit for us..So please lower the cost of these collect calls. Thank you and God bless you...

# 374:

Mar 9, 2009, Johann Lynge, Pennsylvania

# 373:

Mar 9, 2009, Rayden Sorock, Maryland

So much can be done to make sure that prisoners are treated like HUMAN BEINGS. This is one thing we can do.

# 372:

Mar 9, 2009, Anonymous, Louisiana

i pay 200.00 a month on phone calls from prison.

# 371:

Mar 9, 2009, Bernard Henderson, Pennsylvania

In a nation suffering recession, this insanity has got to come to a halt. Inmate's families,as a rule, are not rich people. Most of them sacrifice to pay for one or two calls a month. Some can not afford any.

# 370:

Mar 9, 2009, Trina Pelton, Colorado

# 369:

Mar 9, 2009, Rebecca Curtis, Virginia

The loved ones of inmates have already had to go through the hardships of jail, court, and visitation. Every step of the way we have held a huge emotional burden and many times a huge financial burden - not to mention having to live without our loved ones with us (this again causes an emotional and many times a financial burden within our families). It helps us to know how our loved one is doing, to know that they are alright, and to hear their voice. We have committed no crime! Please have mercy on us and do away with this "tax" that the Government is forcing us to pay every time we hear from our loved ones.

# 368:

Mar 9, 2009, Lauren Capewell, Pennsylvania

Let's not allow companies to profit off of others' misery--at least not more than they already do.

# 367:

Mar 9, 2009, Cynthia Toney, Louisiana

President Obama, It is our prayer that you can help us in this matter. families still have responsibilities to their loved ones who are incarcerated. While incomes are affected anyway because of the incarceration, the high cost of telephone services, which is inclusive of day and night time rates that vary, many families are struggling having to make decisions for everyday living, along with not wanting to have their incarcerated loved one to feel abandoned. Next to a visit (in which many can not do on a consistent basis) is a phone call. Any consideration you can give us in this matter will be appreciated. God Bless you is our prayer.

# 366:

Mar 9, 2009, Nancy J. Claar, Pennsylvania

Prisoners families and loved ones have a right to hear from them, but it is often very hard to meet the phone bills when there are so many other home expenses to cover. In the case of male inmates, the woman has to take over the role of family provider, and caregiver as well. With steadily rising costs of living it is often very difficult. It is my understanding that a lot of the prison phone calls in the USA today are under the jurisdiction of Correctional Billing Services, which is a CANADIAN based operation. The reason for this apparently being that they offer the prison system a 50% cut on the proceeds. My question is, why can't we have the same service from a United States based operation and keep the economy in the homeland? The Canadian based operation often cuts a call off completely after just a few minutes of conversation and requires an additional \$3.00 connection fee. It is not a very reliable (or desirable) system as far as the consumer is concerned. I appreciate the time taken to read my input. I hope and pray that the victims of the prison phone systems, which are the families, will be fairly considered in any decision that is made.

# 365:

Mar 9, 2009, Brenda Caskey, Louisiana

Please These are our Love ones that are in prison, we do support them as being apart of our families. We need to talk to them and them talk to us. We don't get to visit much so keeping in contact by phone not only helps them but us as wife, childern, parents. It puts an extra pressure on us, with times that are hard, please help us by not letting the system make money off our phone calls. Thanks

# 364:

Mar 9, 2009, Anonymous, Pennsylvania

This is really important.

# 363:

Mar 9, 2009, VERONICA CRAMER, Ohio

It's burden enough to have them in prison let alone have to pay the high price to talk to them.

# 362:

Mar 9, 2009, Shantel Vachani, California

OK, where's the logic here. We claim that we our aim is rehabilitation within the criminal INJUSTICE system. If this is true, then it is counter intuitive to put up barriers with respect to phone calls between incarcerated individuals and their loved ones. This might just be the only thing that keeps their hopes up and makes an sort of rehabilitation possible.

# 361:

Mar 9, 2009, Tom Matlock, Louisiana

Please get these poor people a break

# 360:

Mar 8, 2009, Monica Meaux, Louisiana

# 359:

Mar 8, 2009, Jeannine Tuttle, Washington

There is no reason to charge the recipients for a phone call from a prisoner. We are involved in prison ministry and believe that the family or friends should not pay for the inmate's crime.

# 358:

Mar 8, 2009, Sherry Wilkerson, Louisiana

# 357:

Mar 8, 2009, Ronald Ein, Washington

# 356:

Mar 8, 2009, Gina Burns, California

The family are the only source of ultimate support for the inmates, prisoners, juveniles incarcerated, why inflate the price of the calls to the families ...unless it's for profit ...is this part of the PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX, ..stop the ridiculous profiteering

# 355:

Mar 8, 2009, LOU ANN BEYL, Louisiana

I had an incarcerated brother in prison and his calling home made it very hard on me and I think it is horrible that the family of incarcerated folks have to pay such a high costs for collect calls. I think it is high time that something is done about this, President. Please intervene

# 354:

Mar 8, 2009, Kimberly Mays, Washington

My children's father was sentenced for the victimless crime of drug possession because of his "untreated" addiction to cocaine. Had he been able to get into treatment in a timely fashion, we believe that he wouldn't be doing a ridiculous 9 years for "meddling." Like many of our citizens who cannot get the treatment they need because of long waiting lists for treatment bed dates, my husband is languishing in prison instead of being a productive member of society. Is the hope of our family that (at least) this travesty to our family can be minimized somewhat by lowering the cost for him to call home. Thank you for your attention and action in this very important issue.

# 353:

Mar 8, 2009, Janet Boles, United Kingdom

It is difficult with no phone contact while living over here and when over there it is so costly for me and his family simply cannot afford it

# 352:

Mar 8, 2009, Joel Baker, Louisiana

The prison system seems to delight in moving my husband to different institutions, and I move to be near him, to be able to talk to him in the same calling zone. So, besides enormous phone bills, we also have moving expenses. And over 20 years ago the judge said in his summation, "I have no evidence...I find you guilty." Welcome to America, Mr. President!

# 351:

Mar 8, 2009, Lisa Jacques, New Hampshire

# 350:

Mar 8, 2009, Suzanne Gordon, Washington

# 349:

Mar 8, 2009, Sidney Joseph Alvin Andre Touchet, Louisiana

As FOUNDER, 1992, and still Chairman/Director/President of C.O.N.V.I.C.T.S., (Congress On Negotiating Venues {for} Incarcerated Citizens Through Support), Louisiana Penal Reform, I, Sidney Joseph Alvin Andre Touchet, do support LOWER telephone rates for inmates and their families...

# 348:

Mar 8, 2009, Ari Kohn, Washington

# 347:

Mar 8, 2009, Anonymous, Ohio

Prisoner families are continually bled financially through having to send money for commissary

(prices constantly rise), traveling long distances to visit and being socked by high vending machine prices, but most of all my exorbitant phone rates. Phone systems need to be more flexible, permitting cell phones to accept calls, allowing prisoners to use debit cards, and most of all providing AFFORDABLE calls.

# 346:

Mar 7, 2009, Paulette Barras, Louisiana

Our son is an alcoholic who was sentenced to 28 YEARS for repeat DWIs. He never had an accident, never an injury, not even a dented fender. Now we will be without him the rest of OUR lives. Eddie never received treatment either. That is the way of Louisiana JUSTICE! The only connection his family has is through our telephone conversations. As retired seniors we are just struggling both emotionally and financially. Won't you help the ordinary citizens who have been impacted so greatly by the uneven unjust attitude of incarceration today. Help us to afford the calls to our very loved son.

# 345:

Mar 7, 2009, Michael Hines Jr, West Virginia

I want to talk to my cousin cause he is nice and gives me playstation games.

# 344:

Mar 7, 2009, Ashley Hines, West Virginia

I'm doing it so that i can talk to my cousin who is in a juvile center.

# 343:

Mar 7, 2009, Michael Hines, West Virginia

# 342:

Mar 7, 2009, Rebecca Hines, West Virginia

# 341:

Mar 7, 2009, Jonathan Thompson, West Virginia

# 340:

Mar 7, 2009, Amanda Summers, West Virginia

# 339:

Mar 7, 2009, Lora Walburn, Virginia

A 20-minute phone call from my godson, Tony, costs \$7.25. There is a minimum charge regardless of length so we try to maximize the call length. Each jail had a different carrier with a different rate. Now that he has transferred to a VA prison, it has remained the same carrier. However, there are, to the best of my knowledge, no other options; so, to retain voice contact, you pay whatever fee they charge. It is extremely cost prohibitive and please note that his mother, on disability, cannot afford to take calls. Anything that could be done to reduce costs associated with these calls would be greatly appreciated. Lora Walburn

# 338:

Mar 7, 2009, AARON WALLACE, Canada

IT S HARD ON AN IMATE WITH NOTHING BUT AN OUTSIDE CONNECTION TO THE WORLD BUT HAVING HIGH RATES CUTS OFF THE LIFE LINE TO A IMPRISONED PARTY REGARDLESS AND VICTIMIZES FAMILIES ALREADY STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE ...MORE INAPROPRAITE UNJUSTICES THAT NEED TO BE SQUASHED

# 337:

Mar 7, 2009, Anonymous, Colorado

I have a best friend in prison and I do what I can for them out here. What I cant do is bring his kids to see him. When a call is more than I make in an hour it`s pointless to do. Dont you think that a phone call on birth days and holidays would be a good way to relieve stress on people in prison? Well it does`nt really matter what you think,because it`s more for the people on the out side who have done nothing to deserve such treatment. All we do out here is try to keep things together and support each other. It is just as hard to deal with out here as it is in there. Why do we have to be put through the system when we have done no wrong. The only crime here is that were to poor to afford the sanity of a phone call.

# 336:

Mar 6, 2009, Alisha M., West Virginia

# 335:

Mar 6, 2009, Maria Rodriguez, California

Hello,my little brother was recently sent to prison for a 2 year term.I am unable to see him for reasons that i can not control.I would just like to talk to him, and right now i can not afford it.There has to be a better way.

# 334:

Mar 6, 2009, Nicole Dean, West Virginia

# 333:

Mar 6, 2009, Gloria Dorsey, West Virginia

# 332:

Mar 6, 2009, Pastor Laura McInerney, California

Everyone has a right to choose phone services and rates.

# 331:

Mar 6, 2009, Darlene Thompson, West Virginia

My son just entered a juvenile corrections facility for a 60 day evaluation.My husband and I are living on unemployment and trying to keep our mortgage and utilities paid.How do you tell your child that he cannot call home because I can't afford the phone bill?

# 330:

Mar 6, 2009, Edward Padgett, California

# 329:

Mar 6, 2009, LISA WARD-QUALLS, Massachusetts

I FEEL THE REGULAR PHONE COMPANY SHOULD HAVE COLLECT CALLS BILLED AS ALWAYS. THERE ARE NOW OTHER PHONE SYSTEMS INSTALLED ACROSS THE COUNTRY THAT MUST USE THESE SYSTEMS TO RECEIVE COLLECT CALLS FROM THOSE INCARCERATED AND THEY ARE RIPPING US OFF! THEY SHOULD BE FOLLOWING SOME TYPE OF RULES AS EVERY OTHER COMPANY WITH A CAP ON PRICES, OTHERWISE THIS ISSUE BRINGS US TO THE ISSUE WHICH FELL UNDER ORGANIZED CRIME.

# 328:

Mar 5, 2009, Kati Kolar, Idaho

# 327:

Mar 5, 2009, Cara Taylor, Ohio

Hello. My name is Cara. I am a single mom with my one year old son. Every month it is an awful stride to try and let my husband call home. He is gone for two years. And its not like he is a murderer. Yes he did something wrong. But I feel like the state punishes the familys more. I think I hurt more than he does. It is bad enough being all alone with no one to help out not even the state in these hard economic times. I work and go to college. I dont have a dime to talk to my loved one. And it hurts. It cost \$6 for a 15 minute call. It is hard being on the outside when you have someone on the inside. It is bad enough we are going through this. Thank you for reading.

# 326:

Mar 5, 2009, Anonymous, Illinois

It's completely unjustified to charge the massive fees for inmate phone calls. I understand the costs for monitoring calls and maintenance to the phones, etc... I would expect the quality of the calls not to be so unreliable and poor if this were the case. I pay \$20 for a 30 minute phone call. To talk to my loved one, for a total of 2.5 hours a month - is \$100. Regulate calls better. Have inmates have an approved list of numbers they can call. There has to be a better solution. The economy is destroyed. It only adds to the pressures of families of those incarcerated to restrict contact with their loved ones without reason. My life has been impacted by this issue in a tremendous and detrimental way.

# 325:

Mar 5, 2009, R B, Texas

VaDOC - SHAME ON YOU! How can you support a company like GTL?!! They are crooks - charging outrageous connection and per minute fees. VaDOC must be getting a hell-of-a kick back - is this really legal? VaDOC - I bet you would be up in arms if we, as the family of inmates - gave up on them - I bet you'd see the real monster come out then! We, family of inmates, help keep them sane - we include them in our lives, their children's lives, etc.... VaDOC, you should appreciate that! VaDOC INMATES - fight back - REFUSE GTL! Make GTL: 1. ease new account set-ups - short time involved - no more requesting copies of bills, addresses; 2. less connection fee; 3. less per minute fee; 4. GTL use internet phone service to cut costs; 5. VaDOC to manage telephone system and not allow inmates/family be taken advantage of!  
VaDOC/INMATES - TAKE A STAND!

# 324:

Mar 5, 2009, Robin Wilson, Georgia

I have a son in Federal prison doing 36 months. I am raising his 3 kids and my daughter alone on my fixed income. With raising his kids, visits, packages, money and phone calls it is hard. Please lower the phone calls from prison so we can make more visits. They need their father.

# 323:

Mar 5, 2009, Erica Torres, Texas

# 322:

Mar 5, 2009, Nancy Clarke, Virginia

GTL is the only "game in town" for calls from prisons in VA so they can charge whatever they want and if family and friends want to talk to an inmate, we have no choice but to pay their \$2.25 connection fee and then \$0.25 for each minute. It is cheaper to talk to someone on the other side of this great country than it is to talk within the Commonwealth of Virginia to someone in DOC custody. It's just not right! PLEASE FIX THIS!!

# 321:

Mar 5, 2009, Carol Barnes, Pennsylvania

We need to talk to our loved Ones & Friends, & they cannot call because it is too much money for them & me. :(

# 320:

Mar 5, 2009, Sue McCray, Virginia

# 319:

Mar 4, 2009, Renee Smith, Texas

# 318:

Mar 4, 2009, Anonymous, Georgia

# 317:

Mar 3, 2009, Anonymous, Sweden

This is far too expensive. Since letter and phonecalls is the only way to keep in contact. Let us be able to talk.

# 316:

Mar 3, 2009, Aledia Johnson, Virginia

I have a son who is serving time and would like to be able to talk to him sometimes, since he is so far away and I am not able to drive that far. He is right here in the state and it costs 2.99 a minute.

# 315:

Mar 3, 2009, Ani L. Schwartz, New Mexico

# 314:

Mar 3, 2009, Anonymous, North Carolina  
yes they should make the prison calls cheaper

# 313:

Mar 3, 2009, Joanne D. Ferguson, Ohio

# 312:

Mar 3, 2009, Sabrina Pierce, California

# 311:

Mar 3, 2009, Anonymous, Netherlands

# 310:

Mar 2, 2009, Des Domio, Louisiana

I understand there should be cost I recently paid \$2.35 for a sponsee (some one) I am helping to make call. Some one who was actually reaching out for help.

# 309:

Mar 2, 2009, Sarah Clayborne, Tennessee

It is outrageous the charges for phone calls. It is totally immoral to make the ones who love the one incarcerated to pay this outlandish bills. Not to mention the vending machines. This needs to be addressed

# 308:

Mar 2, 2009, Julie Borders, Georgia

This type of measure begins to chip away at transforming our penal system as one that's more about restorative than retributive justice. How can we work on stemming the tide on crime and conviction, thereby reducing inmate populations? One key component is reduced recidivism. Staying connected to the outside world, especially family, can make a big difference in this effort.

# 307:

Mar 2, 2009, Anonymous, New York

My mother already works two jobs, and my father has recently taken a cut in pay to avoid layoffs at his place of work. Now my brother is in prison, and we simply do not need the extra cost, particularly in this difficult economic time. We need to talk to him, as much as possible. He already is unable to call me while I am away at school. He will be in prison a minimum of four more years. The government should take action to lower the cost of calls from prison, and not allow these companies who have a monopoly in the industry to prey on us and gouge us out for something we so desperately need. Thank you President Obama.

# 306:

Mar 2, 2009, Elizabeth Miller, New York

# 305:

Mar 2, 2009, Debra-Jean Childers, Connecticut

# 304:

Mar 2, 2009, Carolina Soza-Gonzalez, Wisconsin

Companies like EVERCOM are profiting from the pain and suffering of prisoners and their families. This is not just abusive but a bad idea when you think that most prisoners will go back to their communities, and in order to have a successful transition they are going to need to have a net of support, which is impossible to keep if there is no contact with relatives and friends. Also think about the "unofficial" victims...the relatives and specially the children of prisoners. They need their mom/dad in their lives. PLEASE LOWER THE COST OF CALLS FROM PRISONS NOW!!!!!!!

# 303:

Mar 2, 2009, Rhonda White, Wisconsin

# 302:

Mar 1, 2009, Jenifer Wicks, Maryland

# 301:

Mar 1, 2009, Tracey Sanders, Texas

# 300:

Mar 1, 2009, Anonymous, California

I have suffered terribly with costs of phone calls during my boyfriends incarceration. He may have done things to put himself in the system but no one deserves to not be in contact with loved ones during this tough time of rehabilitation.

# 299:

Mar 1, 2009, Leigh Lavoie, Canada

Over the last seven years I have been paying thousands for collect calls from prison. Amounts to \$30.00 for one half hour. I am by no means financially set. I live in Canada and calls are from Nevada.

# 298:

Mar 1, 2009, Cathy Simpson, Connecticut

Just another way to mentally abuse inmates. Please sign my petition on mental abuse in the pa. jails. If you cannot find it please email me at eugenesimpson@sbcglobal.net so I can email it to you to sign. GOOD LUCK

# 297:

Mar 1, 2009, Mb Gunner, California

One of the best chances we have at successful returns to society is for those who maintain strong family ties. The majority have limited income. We need to help make family contacts a priority.

# 296:

Feb 28, 2009, Debbie Atwood, Washington

Support and assistance is the way to keep our prisoners out of prison! Please do something about lowering the phone charges for inmate phone calls for our families.

# 295:

Feb 28, 2009, Gene Pierce, Nevada

The charges I paid to speak to my fiancée in prison in Las Vegas while I was living in Louisiana were staggering (more than \$30.00 for 30 minutes). Something really needs to be done. There is no reason for these ridiculously high fees.

# 294:

Feb 28, 2009, Alicia Rhoden, California

I feel the high costs made family members' homes need stop because persons are not able all the time to pay high bills. Yes, the person in prison needs to pay for the crime, but what does family have to go out on many tight budgets? You all need to have hearts, not pimps of the phone system. We are people who have rights, not be used. You take food out of kids' tables, older persons.

# 293:

Feb 28, 2009, Julia Tawyea', Pennsylvania

# 292:

Feb 28, 2009, Helen Arnold, France

# 291:

Feb 28, 2009, Anonymous, California

It is hard enough as it is to have a loved one in prison. The collect call costs are outrageous, we are taken advantage of. It's hard to make ends meet for 99% of the people who have a loved one in the system. Must we tell them they can't call us anymore because we can't afford it? They have nothing, most of them never get a visit, this is their only lifeline to hear a human voice other than another prisoner or a guard. They need to hear that they are loved no matter what. It is unfair that we have to pay such a high price for just a phone call. Not to mention the annoying messages every few minutes to remind us we are calling with an inmate... like we are so stupid that we don't know, we are paying for it.

# 290:

Feb 28, 2009, Carolyn Winkler, Texas

The collect calls are ridiculous! A lot of prisoners can't call because their families cannot afford the high phone bills. Not everyone in prison is guilty and that is even harder!

# 289:

Feb 28, 2009, Anonymous, Colorado

I have a recently incarcerated relative. I am shocked that it is so difficult and expensive to receive a phone call from someone in our prison system. It is plain to see that a portion of our country's population is being taken advantage of by their unfortunate position. This is not the "free and equal" that I would associate with this country.

# 288:

Feb 28, 2009, Amanda Lopez, United Kingdom

As a wife, with her husband in prison, it is a lifeline for both the inmate and their family, to be

able to communicate on a regular basis, with the one they love. Everyone needs love, even those in prison, for this will help them resolve their issues and become greater, more understanding people. Love is universal, so why stop us from giving the love that inmates deserve, just as much as our free world. Lower the prices of prison phone calls, to make our lives and the lives of the inmates more bearable, as well as giving what the all encompassing Almighty has given us to give to one another. Don't deprive anyone of the life giving power of love.

# 287:

Feb 27, 2009, Karren Kilian, Massachusetts

Years ago the monopoly on telephone companies was broken up and we were allowed to choose the company that best suited us as paying customers. Why then is there still a monopoly on who controls the calls coming from inmates out of prisons. Times are hard on everybody, inmates and their families deserve to be able to talk once in awhile without worrying that a collect call from a loved one will mean a child goes without a hot meal or medicine in exchange for an occasional 15 minute call from a father or mother who is incarcerated.

# 286:

Feb 27, 2009, Anonymous, Montana

Dear Sir: I have 3 family members and 2 ex-husband's all in prison. It is highly outrageous to be able to talk to my father, brother and fiancée. It is hard to write continuously and is nice to hear their voices once in a while. Please try find a way to keep the cost down for the loved ones of the incarcerated.

# 285:

Feb 27, 2009, Anonymous, Pennsylvania

In a country with so much financial stress and so many people in our prisons, it would seem someone would find a way to lower phone rates from our prisons and jails. The correctional systems push for family involvement and family ties as a way to help rehabilitate inmates but yet at the same time punish those of us who want to keep in touch with them. Please help to lower phone rates.

# 284:

Feb 27, 2009, Anonymous, California

# 283:

Feb 27, 2009, Nancy Stevens, Pennsylvania

Mr. President; I am the single mother of an incarcerated son. I am appalled by the outrageous costs of the telephone rates that are being charged by the correctional facilities. The Dept. of Corrections encourages the family members and friends to remain in contact with the inmates but yet they make it impossible for most of us to do so by charging such an outrageous price for the phone calls. I am paying for these calls and believe me, I can NOT AFFORD IT, especially with today's economy. This includes pre-paid calling cards and not only collect calls. I am asking for your help to correct this wrong.

# 282:

Feb 27, 2009, Anonymous, Nevada

Friends and family are statistically helpful in the rehabilitation process. The loss of income to families from a person being incarcerated is exacerbated when the telephone calls create a huge burden to that family that is already hurting. Lets help these people, rather than get another dollar in the race to make the most. You can't take it with you.

# 281:

Feb 27, 2009, Michelle Palatnik, New York

# 280:

Feb 27, 2009, Donna Metcalf, Nevada

# 279:

Feb 27, 2009, Carola VdL, Netherlands

The opportunity to talk with an incarcerated family member is a cherished treasure in these difficult times of unvoluntary speraration - and at the moment it costs a fortune. It's just not right that phone providers are allowed to make a fortune on families who are going through so much hardship already.

# 278:

Feb 27, 2009, Sandra Villa, California

We are not a wealthy family and it never occurs to us to not accept my brothers call. We have been upset tremendously by the nazi tactics of the global tel link people, even their employees have had their hearts cut out!! I have never felt such animosity towards a company in my life. This company has way too much control and we are at their mercy, if there was any other choice I would choose to never have to deal with them ever again!!!!

# 277:

Feb 27, 2009, Tracy Gamboa, California

# 276:

Feb 27, 2009, Anonymous, Georgia

One of the most important people in my life has been in prison for over ten years now. Although we are not related by blood, he is my family. Over the years I would talk to him for about fifteen minutes at a time when he called home to his mom. These fifteen minute conversations, that he would make repeatedly in order to speak to his mom, brothers and friends, cost more money than I can calculate. It's like buying a second house, adding another car payment, it's a huge sum of money every month. But what choice is there? Not speaking to them? Letting them sit in prison, never knowing that their families are out here loving and missing them? That's no way to rehabilitate or encourage civility and respect. So why should these families be punished for wanting to keep their loved ones in their life? Why should the inmates be denied their human right to family? Please do something to stop greedy governments from raping the families already wounded with the loss of a loved one. Thank you for your time.

# 275:

Feb 27, 2009, CARISSA HUFFINES, California

# 274:

Feb 27, 2009, Anonymous, Georgia

Family members that have gone astray need the emotional support from their family to help them get back on track. Affordable phone calls do impact the incarcerated family member with positive re-enforcement. However, due to the high cost of phone charges, many families are unable to afford phone calls from an inmate. The inmate feels abandoned and angered. We must do all we can as a family to help re-enforce a positive family bond and send a message to that inmate that we are there for him. A phone call between an inmate and their family is positive re-enforcement and needs to become affordable.

# 273:

Feb 27, 2009, Joyce Arthur, Canada

# 272:

Feb 27, 2009, Joy Friese, Pennsylvania

Please help ease the suffering and burden on families with loved ones incarcerated!

# 271:

Feb 27, 2009, Anonymous, Virginia

# 270:

Feb 27, 2009, Elisa Pelaccia, Canada

# 269:

Feb 26, 2009, William Thomas, California

# 268:

Feb 26, 2009, Anonymous, California

# 267:

Feb 26, 2009, Anonymous, California

# 266:

Feb 26, 2009, LAWRENCE JOSEPH QUIGLEY, Texas

ITS A DISGRACE, GLOBAL TEL LINK THE SYSTEM THEY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PARENTS BROTHERS SISTERS etc. ITS A DISGRACE THAT WERE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF, THE SHERIFFS DEPARTMENTS THE WARDENS ETC. ALL GET A CUT, DONT THEY THE JAILERS MAKE ENOUGH BRINGING ILLEGAL DRUGS INTO THE JAILS/PRISONS, HELL THIER CRIMINALS TOO. THESE PRISONERS NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO THATS PART OF THEIR RECOVERY. THEN THE QUALITY OF THE PHONES IN THE JAILS/PRISONS AT TIMES YOU CAN HARDLY HEAR THE CONVSRSATION AT TIMES I FEEL LIKE IM GOING DEAF. LETS GET TOGEATHER AND TAKE GLOBAL TEL LINK TO COURT ALONG WITH THE JAILERS ANS WARDENS CALL ME LARRY @ 409-789-1021 UNITED WE STAND DEPARTED WE FALL.

# 265:

Feb 26, 2009, Ricky Denton Mississippi, Mississippi

The Prisons are making money off the back of poor working Americans. Mr. President, This is one you can help change and show the families that you are the President of Change.

# 264:

Feb 26, 2009, Mary Doyle, Illinois

# 263:

Feb 26, 2009, Sarab Smith, Florida

# 262:

Feb 26, 2009, Anonymous, California

people who are in jail probably go crazy because they can't talk to the ones they love often!

# 261:

Feb 26, 2009, Khristina McGill, Colorado

Not only does the high cost of prison collect phone calls affect the families already struggling as a result of their loved one being incarcerated, but it affects the prisoners who care about and need that communication. Many inmates need that lifeline in order to cope with the adverse conditions of prison life. Their families are the only ones they have in the whole world, and most times, as a result of the crime which got them incarcerated in the first place, inmates struggle with family relations, and many inmates have no one to call or write to in the hopes of reaffirming that familial bond. Please consider the many families, loved ones, and spouses of prisoners in the system who need that bond. Not all prisoners in the system are heartless, cold sociopaths who do not have the capacity to care about the ones who love them. Thank you.

# 260:

Feb 26, 2009, Amy Burns, Massachusetts

My brother and friend have been incarcerated since 1988 and the price to talk to them over the phone has been astronomical. EX: \$700.00 - \$850.00 per month when they were collect. Now they offer pre pay and they practically take half of your money before any applies to the phone for calls. Global tel-link is the company who handles these calls and they are completely ripping us as families off. As it is now I am lucky if I can even speak to my brother once a month as for my friend I can't afford to communicate with him any longer.

# 259:

Feb 26, 2009, Ursula Armijo, Michigan

# 258:

Feb 26, 2009, Ellen Schumer, Illinois

I've met hundreds of families impacted by this issue. It is an outrage that families are unable to communicate with loved ones just to assure a profit. Please support this change.

# 257:

Feb 26, 2009, Wendy Gonzales, California

Let's get these calls lowered down because this is a crime to be charging so much for one call just to talk to our loved ones..Why should we be punished for a crime we did not commit????????????????

# 256:

Feb 26, 2009, Deborah J Smith Smith, Ohio

While I understand my son has to pay for his mistake, I am being punished with outrageous telephone bills just to keep in touch with him. He is serving his sentence in Parchman,Ms. and I live in Ohio. While I understand its long-distance, I DON'T understand why my phone calls are jus a few cents if any more expensive than someone living in the same area of their loved one serving time.

# 255:

Feb 26, 2009, Deborah Boccanfuso, Louisiana

# 254:

Feb 26, 2009, Anonymous, Missouri

Do the right thing by helping citizens of this country in these hard economic times

# 253:

Feb 25, 2009, MARY DOYLE, Illinois

My boyfriend is incarcerated in Centralia,IL. He calls me every Friday but wishes he could call me more but doesn't because of the high cost the phone company charges for collect calls and I live on disability.

# 252:

Feb 25, 2009, Anonymous, Louisiana

having a child in an institution is so heartbreaking, can anything make it more difficult? absolutly, the way the families of inmates are continually abused by phone calls that are so expensive, by not being able to speak up for fear of repercussions to our prisoner, and by the outrageous cost of items purchased from the "store". where can we turn for help? it's time for someone with authority and courage to step forward and display American compassion !

# 251:

Feb 25, 2009, William Taylor, Georgia

Prisoners already do forced labor for less than minimum wage. I can accept that as a form of punishment. However, financially sticking it to father who are simply trying to contact their wives, sons, daughters and other family members seems very cruel and unusual in my opinion.

# 250:

Feb 25, 2009, Linda Collins, Texas

President Obama, First of all, congratulations on becoming our new President. It is taking forever to get phone systems installed at the Texas state prisons. But, when my husband is given the privilege to call me, I want to be able to afford his calls. I am on SSDI and it's going to be hard to fit the cost of calls into my budget when I can barely feed myself and have gas to visit

him as it is. I hear that the calls will cost us about \$8 each. That is ridiculous. God Bless, Linda S. Collins

# 249:

Feb 25, 2009, Anonymous, Illinois

# 248:

Feb 25, 2009, Angela Smith, Washington

# 247:

Feb 25, 2009, Charles Krugman, California

# 246:

Feb 25, 2009, Christina Webb, California

# 245:

Feb 25, 2009, Maria Enriquez, Illinois

# 244:

Feb 25, 2009, Paula Hodge, California

# 243:

Feb 25, 2009, Rose Sifuentes, Illinois

President Obama: I urge you to listen to the pleas of many mothers, wives, sisters, brothers, children who long to hear the voices of their loved ones. Many of them, as in the case of my son who have been wrongfully convicted...currently he is in a maximum prison where not even a phone call is allowed and spends 23 hours in his cell. I ask for your help in name of all those families who have loved ones in other Illinois prisons who do have the privilege to receive a phone call. But in order for that to happen many families need your assistance to "Lower the cost of calls from Prison!" Sincerely, A Mother's Plea - God Bless You and Thank You!

# 242:

Feb 25, 2009, Bettyanne S., California

# 241:

Feb 25, 2009, Cynthia Nash, Missouri

Even though Inmates are in there doesnt mean there aren't poeple out here who actually cares for them. Getting to talk to their loved ones once in a while helps them to have better behavior while incarcerated. Familys can not afford this so please lower the price of calls.

# 240:

Feb 25, 2009, Lorraine Sumrall, Mississippi

It is morally wrong to charge a family or friend of an inmate an exorbitant amount of money to talk with that inmate. The inmate pays nothing. This morally reprehensible practice must stop. It is usury above all else, and it punishes an innocent party.

# 239:

Feb 25, 2009, Barbara Petersson, California

# 238:

Feb 25, 2009, Georgy Joseph, India

Plz ...let them have a chat, frndzzz

# 237:

Feb 25, 2009, Catherine Lambert, Colorado

A 15 minute call from my son is over \$20. He suffers from a brain disorder that is proven to respond positively to family involvement. The cost of these calls makes it impossible to support him between our visits, which are about every 6 weeks. I live in CO and he is incarcerated in AL. In this new age of better technology, why the rape concerning the families of prisoners?

# 236:

Feb 25, 2009, Yveline LACAVE, France

# 235:

Feb 25, 2009, Lillian Griffin, Illinois

The idoc is hustling the family of the convicted with these high phone charges, the mail is delayed on the regular basis for contact because the system knows it will get way more from the phone because families want to stay in contact, this is so criminal and it's time to stop benefiting from people hardships.

# 234:

Feb 25, 2009, Sandrine Ageorges-Skinner, France

# 233:

Feb 25, 2009, Bertha Escamilla, Illinois

# 232:

Feb 25, 2009, Ella Nevels, Illinois

I believe that DOC in IL should have the pre-paid phone card to help family and friends stay conneted. When the inmate's loss connetion with there family; and when the inmate's are release they feel like they are stranger in there homes and communities. The United State is going to paid a price. When all of these inmates are released from prison. I feel that all DOC in United of America can do a better job reconneting inmates with there families and communities. Because the Inmate's must re-enter different community; when they get out. Let's find some common ground to help the inmate re-enter our communities. In today's world it's the haves and haves not. What do you think the inmate's will do to feed themselves?? They have sent many year have a cot and meal each day. Please reconneted the families by phone. It's sadness me to see people caring for dogs and cats amd dissing a human life. What will this world come to without us working together for change. I pray that DOC will work harder to get a better relationship with the inmate's and there families. 89% are Brown and Black inmate's These inmate re enter the poorest communities were there is on hope.

# 231:

Feb 25, 2009, Kristi Hedger, Illinois

# 230:

Feb 25, 2009, Paula Daniels, Illinois

# 229:

Feb 25, 2009, Stacy Zigler, California

There are times when the only thing that keeps my Husband from breaking down from the inhumane treatment and mental abuse he endures daily is hearing my voice. I too am soothed by hearing his loving supportive voice during the rough days. The Governor has forced us to take 2 days off without pay, raised taxes, and the cost of living continues to rise. Please help relieve some of our stress by putting a cap on these outrageous collect calls. The families don't deserve to suffer.

# 228:

Feb 25, 2009, Anita Kofta, Wisconsin

# 227:

Feb 25, 2009, Nate Frishberg, California

# 226:

Feb 24, 2009, KIMBERLY GOMEZ, Illinois

My husband has been gone 7 yrs and has 9 more to do , this outrageous amount of 1 call has financially crippled my family. It is proven statistically that positive family communication helps in rehabilitation of the incarcerated , thus reducing recidivism. Lower the cost of the lines of communication will help the economy, and the community.

# 225:

Feb 24, 2009, Gen Trevino, Texas

For the benefit of the children.

# 224:

Feb 24, 2009, Kimberly Torigoe, Nevada

# 223:

Feb 24, 2009, Mark Johnson, Illinois

For the benefit of the children, sincerely, Mark Johnson

# 222:

Feb 24, 2009, Guadalupe Garcia, California

# 221:

Feb 24, 2009, Janet Berger, California

# 220:

Feb 24, 2009, Anonymous, Washington D.C.

# 219:

Feb 24, 2009, Steven Been, Texas

Seems like theft to me. Why aren't these cats in prison themselves for extorting money from the families of inmates???

# 218:

Feb 24, 2009, Terri Been, Texas

THE WAY THE PRISON SYSTEM(S) AND THE PHONE COMPANIES TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FAMILIES WITH INCARCERATED LOVED ONES IS CRIMINAL ITSELF!!! IT IS TIME TO STOP THE MADNESS AND DO WHAT IS RIGHT, NOT WHAT MAKES THE PRISON THE MOST MONEY!!!

# 217:

Feb 24, 2009, Anonymous, California

# 216:

Feb 24, 2009, Angela Caldwell, New York

The prison administration should not be allowed to continue stealing from prisoner families. Twenty bucks for a 15 minute call from an Arkansas prison. Hidden surcharges for the New York State government to pocket, in addition to the cut that goes to the New York prison AND the phone company. Imposed by crooks as the FCC looks the other way.

# 215:

Feb 24, 2009, Zachary Gates, North Carolina

The first step to a reduced prison population is to make it less profitable to incarcerate people. Or maybe we like having the highest incarceration rate in the world?

# 214:

Feb 24, 2009, Madeleine Ward, Illinois

When you are robbed the perpetrator goes to prison, in this case they just make more money

# 213:

Feb 24, 2009, Annette Blankenship, Virginia

# 212:

Feb 24, 2009, Marcia Peralta, California

# 211:

Feb 24, 2009, Penny Blach, California

Prison phone rates are outrageously high, with no choice of vendors. Families of inmates cannot afford these rates, and thus the family contacts are very limited with their loved one.

# 210:

Feb 24, 2009, Maria Davalos, California  
maria davalos

# 209:

Feb 24, 2009, Patricia Rodriguez, California

Please find it in your hearts to lower the fees on these calls that mean so much to our loved ones. Staying in contact with them is such a key factor, it keeps them connected to what is important to them "family" Thank you in advance for your consideration.

# 208:

Feb 24, 2009, Anonymous, California

# 207:

Feb 24, 2009, Sheila Mcnair, Mississippi

I have two sons in prison these calls is putting a lot of stress on our family. Because they are just to high.

# 206:

Feb 24, 2009, Anonymous, California

In an effort to safeguard our citizens we have instilled an extraordinary amount of fear. To the degree that law after law is enacted every year in order to safeguard and protect us. However, all these laws have done is create a societal burden by criminalizing those who are caught in violation of these laws. These new 'criminals' are left with little if any government support in trying to re-enter society. Thier families, if they are lucky enough to have any, are the only financial and emotional support available to them. Yet, the expense associated with a phone call, a visit, a package also takes a toll on families trying to be supportive. It is necessary to reduce communication costs in order to allow inmates to continue to receive the much needed support in order to them to have a better chance of success.

# 205:

Feb 24, 2009, Julien Ball, Illinois

Stop punishing prisoners' family members, who have been convicted of no crime, by charging them exorbitant fees for phone calls.

# 204:

Feb 24, 2009, Pam Sutherland, Tennessee

My husband is in prison and there are times that we cant talk due to the expensive amount it cost.

# 203:

Feb 24, 2009, Betty Matthews, Texas

I serve many behind bars as a minister. how much easier and better if at times the phone calls were less expensive so i could relay a message to their families. this would be a real service to families and a big help and blessing to me as I havent money for it..yet i do my best with what i have. so this would be a big thing in many lives. Rev. Betty Matthews

# 202:

Feb 24, 2009, Yoke Jaken, Netherlands  
Please the cost of calls from Prison!

# 201:

Feb 24, 2009, Samantha Abernathy, Mississippi  
please help so i can afford to talk to my daddy!

# 200:

Feb 24, 2009, Barbara Dycus, Tennessee

# 199:

Feb 24, 2009, David Abernathy, Mississippi  
Please help me be able to afford to talk to my dad!

# 198:

Feb 24, 2009, Zach Friley, Mississippi

# 197:

Feb 24, 2009, Nick Friley, Mississippi

# 196:

Feb 24, 2009, Selah Saterstrom, Colorado

# 195:

Feb 24, 2009, Michael Park, Mississippi

# 194:

Feb 24, 2009, Christine Jackson, Mississippi  
Please help lower cost so we at home can afford to talk to our incarcerated loved ones. thank you

# 193:

Feb 24, 2009, Tracy Park, Mississippi  
Dear President Obama, Please help lower the cost of prison telephone calls, the high rates place extra burdens on the love ones at home. Thank you for your time and consideration.

# 192:

Feb 24, 2009, Sheila Harris, Louisiana

# 191:

Feb 24, 2009, Karen Demoran, Mississippi  
How can they be expected to return to society when it is made so hard for them & their families to stay in touch? I have always heard the family does the time with the inmate but punishing both through high expense for communication is cruel & inhumane treatment in my eyes. Everyone in prison is not a throw away even though it seems that is what the penal system wants and tries to make happen.

# 190:

Feb 24, 2009, Anonymous, Louisiana

Please lower the rate of phone calls from prison so that the imprisoned may be able to maintain contact with their families who bear a disproportionate cost of their imprisonment. Yet the families have been convicted of nothing. Thank you for considering this logical request.

# 189:

Feb 24, 2009, Jennifer Henderson, Florida

Is the cost of communicating with family part of the prisoner's punishment, or is it to punish the family of the prisoner? Can we not show some compassion in the matter of cost of telephone calls? Do we really need to make a profit here?

# 188:

Feb 24, 2009, Elaine Wang, California

# 187:

Feb 24, 2009, Wendy Hess, Maryland

# 186:

Feb 24, 2009, Peggy Miller, Louisiana

Please assist. I am across the State line ( she is in MS and I am in LA )from the prison my Love One is in and it costs me one dollar per minute due to the Intrastate fees.

# 185:

Feb 24, 2009, Vicki Denny, California

# 184:

Feb 24, 2009, Julianna Spallholz, New York

# 183:

Feb 24, 2009, Eric Brooks, New York

# 182:

Feb 24, 2009, Joy Weathers, North Carolina

# 181:

Feb 24, 2009, Cristina Canciani, Italy

# 180:

Feb 24, 2009, Rebecca Kimmel, Colorado

We see where greed, lack of regulation and exploitation have taken this country. The prison collect call scam cries out for action.

# 179:

Feb 24, 2009, Tina Doherty, California

# 178:

Feb 24, 2009, Jerry Lewallen, Texas

# 177:

Feb 24, 2009, Shannon Adamcik, Idaho  
please make it affordable for loved ones to stay in touch

# 176:

Feb 24, 2009, Bonnie Zepeda, California  
every person in prison deserves to speak to thier families at a nomanal fee please stop the outrage of the cost of calls both prisoner paid and collect to families of prisoners

# 175:

Feb 24, 2009, Anonymous, California

# 174:

Feb 23, 2009, Anonymous, Wyoming  
While my husband was in prison the cost of phone calls became such a burden that I lost my phone service, my home and ultimately my marriage fell apart because of financial problems and the associated stress and worry. The price of phone calls from many prisons is outright theft by the phone companies. These exorbitant phone charges should be stopped immediately and a cap put on the amount that any phone company can charge for such calls. Stop punishing the families and contributing to the breakup of many family units! President Obama, please do all that you can to further this humanitarian cause. Thank you very much. Respectfully, Mrs. Sheri Smith

# 173:

Feb 23, 2009, Kathleen Franks, Pennsylvania  
Why should families be punished like this?

# 172:

Feb 23, 2009, Toni Sevchuk, California  
To whom it may concern, My name is Toni Sevchuk, and I am a wife of a prisoner/inmate in the State, and city of Sacramento California. Before October 2005, I have never stepped foot in a jail, or prison facility, and I had no clue what was about to take place and change my families life forever. The first thing we were to experience was the awful abuses of receiving collect calls from our love one in jail. My phone was not set up to receive my husband's collect calls, and I can't tell you how disappointing and frustrating it was to just get "signed up" with Global Tel Link services and literally be at this companies mercy to hear my husband's voice in such a traumatic time in our lives. There were so many hurdles for my family to jump through just to get signed up with this company in the beginning. First you have to pay up front a minimum of \$25. If you do not have in your possession a credit card, then you have to mail the money in means of a money order, which delays the process even further and takes at least two weeks before you can start receiving any telephone calls from your love one. The charges/rates are outrageous, and we often are disconnected before our allotted time is up where as the inmate calls back immediately afterwards, and the second call is charged as a new call because they had disconnected the prior call before our call time was completed creating further charges to our bill. We have had this incident happen numerous times. Not to mention you are only allowed so

many collect calls per month. Each time you contact the company you have a new set of issues you're faced with which include, customer service representatives that 1.) Do not speak English, or understand English 2.) Hang up on you 3.) Put you on hold for more than thirty minutes and/or transfer your calls so many times you either hang up in frustration or you get absolutely no results in the end. 4.) Their invoices make absolutely no sense, and are confusing to comprehend, you do not know if you owe money or if the company owes you credit when attempting to translate them. I believe that the inmates and family members are being taken advantage of in a heartless and unethical way. Many inmates and family members are of lower income and uneducated, this factor leaves us even more vulnerable to these types of abuses. Where is the conscience of America and Americans gone? Sincerely, Toni Sevchuk

# 171:

Feb 23, 2009, Mariana Ramirez, California

# 170:

Feb 23, 2009, Hannah Cannom, California

# 169:

Feb 23, 2009, Jennifer Bland, Arkansas

PRISON CALLS ARE NOT TO GAIN AN INCOME, WE APPRECIATE THE FREEDOM TO CALL INMATES, BUT A LOWER COST WOULD BE APPRECIATED! MANY OF US HAVE CLOSE FAMILY AND LOVED ONES AND FRIENDS THAT ARE INMATES AND USE THE COLLECT SERVICES QUITE FREQUENTLY TO BEGIN WITH, SO PLEASE HELP SAVE COSTS!

# 168:

Feb 23, 2009, Susan Henderson-Utis, Washington D.C.

This would mean so much to so many people! It's very important for prisoners' and their families that they have available means of communication. Society as a whole will benefit. Plus, it's the compassionate thing to do.

# 167:

Feb 23, 2009, Anonymous, California

Make things fair for all, prisoners are still humans.

# 166:

Feb 23, 2009, Loni Kaye, California

# 165:

Feb 23, 2009, Ardy Haerizadeh, California

# 164:

Feb 23, 2009, Torin Dunnavant, California

# 163:

Feb 23, 2009, Andrew Extein, California

# 162:

Feb 23, 2009, Jared Weddle, California

# 161:

Feb 23, 2009, Cynthia Tiedeman, Nebraska

# 160:

Feb 23, 2009, Lori Rifkin, California

# 159:

Feb 23, 2009, Mary Tiedeman, California

# 158:

Feb 23, 2009, Michelle Smucker, Pennsylvania

# 157:

Feb 23, 2009, Cabral Bonner, California

# 156:

Feb 23, 2009, Alex Friedman, Tennessee

It is not prisoners who pay high phone rates -- it is their families and loved ones. Prisoners cannot vote (except in a few states), but their families can. There are 2.3 million prisoners in the US in prisons and jails. You do the math, and right this wrong.

# 155:

Feb 23, 2009, Dianna Goodwin, New York

Charging high phone rates to the families of prisoners causes prisoners to lose contact with the very people who can stabilize them upon re-entry into the community. It is also a tax on the poor, since poor people are the ones who go to prison. Please end this practice.

# 154:

Feb 23, 2009, Katy Parker, North Carolina

# 153:

Feb 23, 2009, Michael Hamden, North Carolina

Honorable Barack H. Obama, President of the United States of America: We must put an end to the unconscionable practices of prisoner telephone providers, which include: The payment of "commissions" as high as 60% to correctional facilities for the right to provide exclusive telephone services (i.e., a monopoly) in an institution or for an entire system; Extraordinarily high rates on "collect-only" calling policies which predominate (the most expensive means of placing a call); "Service/set-up" fees (charged to customers setting up a required pre-paid account for the first time); "recharge fees" (billed when a customer reopens an account); "processing fees" - imposed either by a service provider or a third party business - for processing a customer's payment; and the confiscation of sums remaining in an account after a specified period (3 - 6 months) of inactivity; Attenuated 3-way call detection that improperly but

purposely disconnects calls to increase per-call costs and overall revenue; and Costly "security measures" of dubious utility (such as "voice recognition software.") This practice amounts to the imposition of a tax upon the families of prisoners. Many of those families are among the least affluent and most vulnerable members of our society. We should instead establish a comprehensive, fair per-minute benchmark rate for all intra-state and inter-state prisoner collect, pre-paid, and debit telephone calls that covers legitimate costs, provides a reasonable rate of return to prison phone providers, eliminates "commissions," forecloses alternative means to unjustifiably inflate the cost of prisoner phone calls, and defers to state public service commission's to address requested cost adjustments – all toward the end of providing fair and reasonable rates for the widest possible range of prisoner-initiated telephone calls. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

# 152:

Feb 23, 2009, Stephen Philpin, California

And a re-examination of some of the laws that put all those people in there, while we're at it, would be a good idea as well - I mean, who are we trying to help here, Ma Bell?

# 151:

Feb 23, 2009, Sarah Brown, New York

# 150:

Feb 23, 2009, Elena Georgiou, Vermont

# 149:

Feb 23, 2009, Christian Peet, Vermont

# 148:

Feb 22, 2009, Pam Thrasher, Alabama

# 147:

Feb 22, 2009, Sherry Swiney, Alabama

# 146:

Feb 22, 2009, Anonymous, California

I HAVE CANCER AND IT'S SO HARD FOR ME TO TALK TO MY THREE SON'S I HAVE TWO IN STATE PRISON'S ONE IN COUNTY BECOUSE PHONE CALLES ARE SO EXPENSIVE I CAN'T PAY A PHONE BILL I HAVE TO PAY RENT BUY FOOD AND PAY ALL MY BILLS THE PHONE BILLS ARE SO EXPENSIVE I CANT AFFORED TO PAY EVRYTHING SO I ASK U SIR PLEASE I NEED TO HEAR FROM MY SON'S FROM PRISON JUST TO HEAR THEYR VOICES AND MAKE SURE THEYR OK THANK YOU

# 145:

Feb 21, 2009, Michelle Falato, California

Please do away with these phone companies that are monopolies providing kickbacks to the state at the inmates' families expense.

# 144:

Feb 21, 2009, Anonymous, Florida

# 143:

Feb 21, 2009, Anonymous, United Kingdom

How would you feel to have to decide between eating that day or hearing that YOUR son was ok, and giving him some hope and positive words to see him through another day? what would you do? as below, DROP THE CHARGES WE ARE INNOCENT

# 142:

Feb 21, 2009, Debbie Private, United Kingdom

Fact!! to send \$5 to a prisoner costs \$8.95. Ask yourself..eat today or talk to your dad? pay your rent or hear that your son is still alive? is it fair that OUR RIGHTS to hear from our families and loved ones is so expensive? we get penalised for loving our families/friends in prison at the moment!! Its WRONG to charge so much.! DROP THE CHARGES WE ARE INNOCENT!!!!

# 141:

Feb 21, 2009, Harold Cameron, Pennsylvania

Mr. President, Please help us to secure lower rates for the cost for inmates to call their families from prisons. Your help will be greatly appreciated. "Love wins!" To YOUR success! Harold Cameron Chief of Helping People HaroldSays Phone (570) 341-6796  
[www.haroldsays.typepad.com](http://www.haroldsays.typepad.com) [www.bepositiveday.com](http://www.bepositiveday.com) (July 15, 2009)  
[www.youtube.com/haroldsays](http://www.youtube.com/haroldsays) [www.blogtalkradio.com/haroldsays](http://www.blogtalkradio.com/haroldsays)  
[www.blogtalkradio.com/blacktalkmedia](http://www.blogtalkradio.com/blacktalkmedia) [www.iripoff.com](http://www.iripoff.com)

# 140:

Feb 20, 2009, Anonymous, Georgia

# 139:

Feb 20, 2009, Greg Granger, Canada

# 138:

Feb 20, 2009, Chuck Gallagher, North Carolina

# 137:

Feb 20, 2009, LaVerl Tilton, Oklahoma

# 136:

Feb 20, 2009, Rachel Woolley, California

Thank you for your consideration. My brother has 3 little ones and in order to talk with them he has to call my dad when he has them for the weekend. This gets very costly for my dad!

# 135:

Feb 20, 2009, Laura Jensen, Massachusetts

It's a shame with today's expenses being outrageous that we (as parents, wives, husbands or other family members) have to not accept calls from our loved ones as we just can't afford it. Especially when our loved ones in prison need the family support. Just another way to make

them fail and keep the recidivism rate high. Of course with out that the lawyers, judges, parole,probation, and police officers wouldn't be needed as much and may not make any money. Lest us forget about the commissary inside prison, we all know who lines their pockets with that money...Bush, he owns the Kennedy commissary's. So please do something to help the people who really want to be their for the family memeber that is incarceraated, make the phone accessable to everyone. Thank you

# 134:

Feb 20, 2009, Anonymous, California

# 133:

Feb 20, 2009, Anonymous, Utah

# 132:

Feb 20, 2009, Anonymous, Texas

The Love Ones of Prisoners endure unbelievable stress, emotional strain, the fear of the unknown, the only way we can know is through the mail or phone calls BUT many cannot stay in contact because of the cost of the phone calls when many are charging almost \$2.00 per minute. This is just more of the Cruel and Unusual Punishment that all have to endure due to The America Industrial Prison System of corruption, false witnesses, false evidence, lying lawenforcers, attorneys, District Attorneys, Judges giving instructions to the jurors that can hang a person... Please STOP THE INSANITY, the families are destroyed because of the OUT OF CONTROL injustice system.

# 131:

Feb 20, 2009, Monica Morton, Texas

My son recently sustained a broken ankle due on 1/6/09 due to a completely preventable accident; as of 2/19/09 he has not yet had surgery that was deemed necessary by a surgeon. He is now in a wheelchair. I am currently in the midst of a campaign to save my son and other inmates from cruel and unusual punishment within prison confines; it is imperative, as a mother, that he call me quite often. We are not wealthy people; we committed no crime; my son has accepted full responsibility for his crime; as such, we should not be punished and suffer the needless hardship of paying exhorbitant phone bills simply to have the peace of mind - and afford that to our son - because we want to hear his voice and know he is still alive!

# 130:

Feb 20, 2009, Carol Leonard, Tennessee

# 129:

Feb 20, 2009, Betty Wirsen, Missouri

# 128:

Feb 19, 2009, Toni Gauger, Nevada

it is costing us about \$150 per month using I.C. Solutions. It costs about \$10 a call for half an hour. Pretty high. Like lots of other things, they know you want to talk to your loved one and they know you will pay it and thus take advantage of that. toni

# 127:

Feb 18, 2009, Otto Eric Monsanto, California

# 126:

Feb 18, 2009, Anonymous, Virginia

# 125:

Feb 17, 2009, Bernadette Ingersoll, Texas

i have so much to take care of and other bills i have to pay on my own now that lowering the cost of phone calls would be so much of a burdon off my back to know that i can still talk to the man that keeps me going in this tuff time that i amm in and now worry that the phone call we are makin is takin money from a important bill i might need to pay

# 124:

Feb 17, 2009, Sandy Jackson, Colorado

The person I correspond with is incarcerated in Virgina, therefore being able to speak to each other over the phone is vital to both our sanities. Not only would I like to see the cost of calls decreased, but also enable calls to be made to cell phones for those of us who don't have or can't afford both a cell and a landline. Thank you.

# 123:

Feb 16, 2009, CRISTAL GARCIA, Maryland

# 122:

Feb 16, 2009, John Simmonds, Mexico

# 121:

Feb 16, 2009, Carol Marshall, United Kingdom

# 120:

Feb 16, 2009, Anonymous, California

Even real criminals rehabilitation may benefit from a phone call to their mother, pastor etc.

# 119:

Feb 15, 2009, Victoria Elder, Louisiana

The high price of everything in prison is ridiculous. From the phone calls, to the connection charges, to the cigarettes, and the food, to... well, everything. My brother is incarcerated at Louisiana State Penitentiary and has never called me because he knows I'll accept the charges even if the cost to me is going to be high. When I visit him, I drive two hours one way, I spend about five hours twice a month there, I'm harrassed by guards, I feed him a meal, I buy him snacks to take back to his cell and hopefully enough to share with his cellmate, and I try to buy him cigarettes at over \$10 more a carton than they are in the free world. I send him cash to put in his account so he can buy himself toiletries. The prison apparently thinks I'm responsible for buying him everything he needs and they don't have to offer competitive pricing because they are

the only option. The prison itself makes money off of everything I buy for him and every phone call I accept. I am being victimized by the prison and they act like I belong in there with him.

# 118:

Feb 15, 2009, Michelle Castaneda, California

# 117:

Feb 15, 2009, Katrina Dumais, Florida

People in prison more than ever need to be in touch with family members. Think about this? Just maybe the prison population would be happier speaking to family members and be happier people making the jobs of all correction officers easier? Its just a thought.

# 116:

Feb 15, 2009, Anonymous, Arizona

I not only am trying to figure out how to pay for the calls I NEED to have with him, I am also driving 2 hours one way to see him for a twenty minute non-contact visit twice a week and sending him money to be put on his books for toothpaste, soap, underwear etc...I can not take him what he needs. He has to buy it from the system. The cost of a 15 minute phone call is over \$5 which I understand is quite low compared to other facilities as the rates are not consistent from one facility to another. I have to do this all by myself without his income and yes he made a mistake but the only responsibility I hold in this whole situation is being in a relationship. I am the one being punished and financially drained.

# 115:

Feb 15, 2009, Anonymous, Virginia

Any help that anyone can give please do!! This is not just for the prisoners but especially for their families!!

# 114:

Feb 14, 2009, Anonymous, Virginia

families should not have to pay these ridiculous prices that are charged to pay just to speak to there loved ones, it is not the families faults

# 113:

Feb 14, 2009, Anonymous, Virginia

My daughters father is in prison and will be for the next 4 years. He may be paying the price for the mistakes he made but our daughter is the one that is paying the ultimate price. No, it's not fair and that's just the way life turns out sometimes, I can accept that. The thing I CAN NOT accept is that these prisons take peoples personal tragedies and turn them into personal financial gain by charging a ridiculous amount for the phone calls. Our child needs to hear her daddy's voice EVERY day but because of the selfishness of this system she isn't able to, something has got to be done!! I gladly sign this petition and will get every friend and family member I can turned on to this thing!! Thank you for starting it.

# 112:

Feb 14, 2009, Kristine Collins, Michigan

# 111:

Feb 14, 2009, Ingrid Chavez, Virginia

# 110:

Feb 14, 2009, Melissa Kern, Virginia

they move the prisoner away from his family so you have a hard time visiting phone calls are all you have. Most people that keep in contact with family have a better chance of changing. Seems like the system is bent on that not happening.

# 109:

Feb 14, 2009, Tammy Byrd, Arizona

# 108:

Feb 13, 2009, A A, Georgia

With the trouble this country is in, non-violent offenders should be released and save not only the phone call expense, the misery for their families, the waste of their life, but \$30,000 per person to keep them there.

# 107:

Feb 13, 2009, Ryan Jenkins, Florida

# 106:

Feb 13, 2009, Anonymous, Ohio

# 105:

Feb 13, 2009, Bobby Heard, Canada

# 104:

Feb 13, 2009, Laura Jonguitud raikes, United Kingdom

# 103:

Feb 13, 2009, Melissa Jennings, Missouri

please it's hard enough not having them around us physically but don't make it so hard on the families that need the calls too!

# 102:

Feb 13, 2009, Tracie Hernandez, North Carolina

# 101:

Feb 13, 2009, Katherine Marks, California

I have a total of 6 people in state prison and 2 in county. They are all my family so you can imagine what I go through trying to stay in contact with them all with todays high prices on everything and the outrageous prices they charge us for these calls. Please help us to stay in contact with our loved ones.

# 100:

Feb 13, 2009, Line Llao, France

# 99:

Feb 13, 2009, Sherie Hubble, California

Not only should calls be more affordable for families of prisoners but also prisoners should be allowed to make free calls to advocacy centers and social workers who do not accept collect calls.

# 98:

Feb 12, 2009, Anonymous, Ohio

# 97:

Feb 12, 2009, PRISCILLA ESKEW, West Virginia

# 96:

Feb 12, 2009, Adrianna Allen, New York

The love of my life is incarcerated upstate New York, being a student i can't afford to keep up with these outrageous bills that keep coming from these over sized phone companies, constantly preying on us having a need to speak to the one's we love. most of us have different reasons as to why we can't get a chance to see those we love, and phone calls are as precious as sight in many cases. so when we can not afford the calls most can't keep in touch at all. Think about what that does to The Spirit of America. Sincerely, Adrianna Allen

# 95:

Feb 12, 2009, Davida Paul, New York

This contact with families is important to rehabilitation for people who have been incarcerated. Please help these families!

# 94:

Feb 12, 2009, Kelly Collier, Virginia

I work very hard and I would love to be able to talk to my fiance' more often I can't afford to because, of the high priced calls. Since, he is away I am a single mother and it is hard to be able to afford everything.

# 93:

Feb 12, 2009, Brett Williams, Vermont

I'm lucky enough not to know anyone in prison, so I was shocked to become aware today of this particular unnecessary and seemingly mean-spirited barrier that we have erected. In my opinion prisoners should have free and uncensored access to the internet, but restricting and profiting from even their communication with close friends and family so dramatically is simply twisted. I beg of those of you who are affected by this that you not accept it, that you continue fighting, not just for your own sake but for the sake of freedom, for the hope that we can someday live in an open society.

# 92:

Feb 12, 2009, Evelyn Romero, California

# 91:

Feb 12, 2009, Krista Martinez, Oregon  
The cost is way to high!

# 90:

Feb 12, 2009, Anonymous, Oregon

# 89:

Feb 12, 2009, Anabel Mesa, Florida

# 88:

Feb 12, 2009, Roxie Schliesman, Wisconsin

# 87:

Feb 11, 2009, Anonymous, Tennessee

# 86:

Feb 11, 2009, Kathy Rowe, Australia

# 85:

Feb 11, 2009, Danielle Moore, Belgium

# 84:

Feb 10, 2009, Marianne Anderson, California

the families of inmates have done nothing wrong but yet pay an ultimate price in more ways than one for loving an inmate. the price of prison phone calls is a horrible way of taking advantage of many innocent people trying to keep their family ties together until their loved one comes home. something needs to be done. thank you for taking the time in reading my comment.

# 83:

Feb 10, 2009, Michelle Thompson, Kentucky

Me and my husband have a 2 year old little boy that loves to talk to his daddy, however because I am a single mother now in college I can barely afford to talk to him. It is so important to all of our relationships to be able to keep in touch with our loved ones, but with the price of these calls, it is so difficult. Lowering them any would help me and my family and I am sure everyone else's too. Thank You!!!

# 82:

Feb 10, 2009, Alicia Raymond, California

# 81:

Feb 10, 2009, BiLL Fowlie, Maine

# 80:

Feb 9, 2009, Anonymous, California

# 79:

Feb 9, 2009, Anonymous, Michigan

# 78:

Feb 9, 2009, Anonymous, California

some people cant even USE the phone inside because of the costs, families are hurt, lower the cost

# 77:

Feb 9, 2009, Charles Porter, California

# 76:

Feb 9, 2009, Kelly Landford, California

My husband is currently incarcerated for a minor, non-violent parole violation that I am still not convinced he actually committed. Right now I can only afford to see him once every few months because California "can't afford" to place him near his family. His phone calls are limited to 15 minutes once or twice a week and those calls cost ME an arm and a leg. His facility is up in northern California where it is cold and snows. I have to pay for his extra cloths to keep warm, extra food, stamps, envelopes, etc. It all adds up to about \$600 a month out of MY pocket. I did not commit a crime but I am punished every day, not only by not having him by my side, but by having 1/2 a house payment taken out of my paycheck which I earn by supporting vital operations of the NAVY. All of this is in horrible need of reform, but we can take it one step at a time by lowering the cost of these calls. Every little bit helps. Please have mercy and understand that a VITAL part of "rehabilitating" these men is to enable them have more access to the support of their families. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

# 75:

Feb 8, 2009, Denise Richardson, North Carolina

# 74:

Feb 8, 2009, Kate Crisp, Colorado

# 73:

Feb 7, 2009, Cynthia Davis, Virginia

# 72:

Feb 7, 2009, Mary Neal, Georgia

Thank you for the opportunity to support prisoners, who are disproportionately poor, black or brown. Many people do not realize that 2/3 of prisoners are convicted of non-violent offenses, and that many innocent people may also be incarcerated, but could not afford good legal counsel. Therefore many chose to forego their rights to jury trials and take a plea deal - even when not guilty. I endorse the petition to lower costs associated with telephone usage by prisoners.

# 71:

Feb 6, 2009, Ute Grun, Germany

# 70:

Feb 6, 2009, Angela Walker, Indiana

# 69:

Feb 6, 2009, Kimberly Crane, Arizona

Here in Az ( which used to be a FREE country) The prison system is how they revenue big cash and coincidentally: The imposed mandatory drug laws at the same time the feds started massive drug trafficking into america ! If I had a dime for ALL the beautiful people that have DIED behind THEIR drug trafficking and committed suicide to NOT go back for a dirty UA. O came back here to my home Az after being in SF,Ca for 11 yrs and BOY! It is a nazi, police state, punish people if they have NO money ! Then they make a bust here & there to make it LOOK good and we KNOW it gets put back onb the streets to strip american rights, This country is so ass- backwards. Study, read law library and find out where you stand with this insanity, because when FELON was created? It was NOT meant for such PETTY issues and humans make mistakes and these people think they r GODS! Hell, They even charge inmates for meals and medical care here and I am leaving with my family ASAP, even though we settled here in 1800!

# 68:

Feb 5, 2009, Anonymous, Michigan

# 67:

Feb 5, 2009, De LaFreniere, Canada

I think that the family and friends are sometimes the only link to the outside world - and perhaps what makes some want to get out and to change their lives around.

# 66:

Feb 5, 2009, Heather Stultz, Virginia

# 65:

Feb 5, 2009, Lauren Burns, Texas

Please don't punish us for what our loved one's did to break the law. We are the ones that have to pay that bill. They are punished enough as it is. The fee's of these calls are just as CRIMINAL. A change needs to be made. We all know that many of these men never hurt a soul, and this kind of punishment is cruel.

# 64:

Feb 5, 2009, Shannon Locklear, South Carolina

These \$24 a 15 min calls are unfair! Not only are our loved ones away from us but we cant afford to talk to them! But as always..we are riding with our loved ones..

# 63:

Feb 4, 2009, Rachael Phillips, Texas

To whom it may concern, It's bad enough that my husband and the father of my 5 month old son is in prison almost 3 hours away and I can't go see him. But then sometimes I can't even accept a phone call from him because the cost is crazy. You have the prison cost plus long distance

charges just for two 15 minute phone calls your looking at \$20 + and sometimes the phone cuts you off before your 15 minutes are even up. Plus I have to pay for his commissary so he can have the basics for hygiene and I live on a fixed income with three children and I just went back to school myself. I just think the families of inmates should get a break somewhere. We didn't do the crime so why are we having to pay for it? It's not a crime to love an inmate so why are we treated like criminals just because our loved one gets incarcerated?

# 62:

Feb 4, 2009, Michaela Sainer, Germany

# 61:

Feb 4, 2009, Stephanie Walker, Maryland

# 60:

Feb 4, 2009, Lorraine Walker, Maryland

# 59:

Feb 4, 2009, Moni Hines, Netherlands

It is wrong to make the financial burden of having a loved one in prison even bigger or even making a profit of them.

# 58:

Feb 4, 2009, Anonymous, Washington D.C.

My husband is in VA and his calls cost me \$23 a call, that is crazy. My phone bill is now \$565 and I still have to survive and take care of my two kids. The rates for these prison call are insane. You have companies like GTL who is making major money just because we won't to talk to our love ones, that's so sad.

# 57:

Feb 4, 2009, Sabine Brandt, Germany

# 56:

Feb 4, 2009, Robert Heard, Mexico

# 55:

Feb 4, 2009, Cathy Heard, Mexico

# 54:

Feb 4, 2009, Manu Ramirez, Spain

# 53:

Feb 4, 2009, Kellie Smith, New Hampshire

# 52:

Feb 4, 2009, Jennifer Gardner, Florida

# 51:

Feb 4, 2009, Anonymous, Netherlands

My husband is in prison and it is very important for us to be able to talk on the phone on a regular base, especially because of the distance between us at the moment. We dont get a full 15 minute call, because of all the interruptions in the phonecall, just to let me know that the call is coming from a correctional institution, like I dont already know that! The costs of the phone calls are enormous. I have to support both of us and with these ridiculous phone call costs added, it really isnt easy. Phonecalls from family and loved ones have a very positive impact on both the inmate and their loved ones, so why make it almost impossible?

# 50:

Feb 4, 2009, Julie Hawkins, Ohio

Most people don't ever have to realize how hard it is raising children and having a loved one in prison. For those of us that do, its a huge thing for us to pay so much for a single phone call. But without those calls, so many people would be hurting; especially our children.

# 49:

Feb 4, 2009, William Jester, Pennsylvania

# 48:

Feb 4, 2009, Sandra Romero, Kansas

# 47:

Feb 3, 2009, Margaret Brugger, Colorado

The facility that I work at in the (department of youth corrections) lets each girl there make at least one phone call a week. This totally helps with family reunification and also helps children and their parents stay in contact. I fully support lowing the costs of call from prison. There is no reason these fees cannot be reasonable for families. Also people with out money should not be shut out from contacting family to find support.

# 46:

Feb 3, 2009, Christal Simpson, Virginia

Im trying to make it out here on my own and trying to support my husband as well, but its so expensive! I mean contact with me is the only thing that keeps him going! Its absurd, that I have to put hundreds of dollars into phone calls to talk to him for a month!

# 45:

Feb 3, 2009, Mandy Kokani, United Kingdom

# 44:

Feb 3, 2009, Tana Smith, Texas

why should we have to pay for phone calls? havent we paid enough? i believe the state pays these prisons enough money for our loved ones that we should at least receive so many free phone calls a month or at least half of what they are robbing us for...

# 43:

Feb 3, 2009, Christy Armell, New Mexico

Sometimes calls are all we have! Costs should be lowered to be more affordable for all families so that the bonds can continue to grow and be nurtured.

# 42:

Feb 3, 2009, Annabelle Parker, Netherlands

Also for international calls, for all those prisoners with family and friends overseas.

# 41:

Feb 3, 2009, Carla G, California

# 40:

Feb 3, 2009, Jakeisha Miker, North Carolina

# 39:

Feb 3, 2009, Anonymous, Germany

It is vital for us as family, especially the once living further away, have regular contact with our loved once in prison. Right now this is unaffordable, especially with the financial crisis and many losing jobs. A social connection also helps the inmate to stay calm and he/she is easier to lead. Make it affordable for everyone please.

# 38:

Feb 3, 2009, Anonymous, Texas

# 37:

Feb 3, 2009, Jeff Hull, Georgia

# 36:

Feb 3, 2009, Anonymous, Oklahoma

# 35:

Feb 3, 2009, EDY AYON, California

IM A MOTHER OF A 21 YEAR OLD LIFER..ANYTHING U CAN DO TO MAKE THIS EASIER ON HIM AND OUR FAMILY WOULD BE GREATLY APPRICATED...

# 34:

Feb 3, 2009, Donna Nason, Texas

# 33:

Feb 3, 2009, Anonymous, Wisconsin

I am a mother of three and my husband is in prison for a crime he had nothing to do with, we were actually on our honeymoon when this happened. we talk every so often but it really is just to high. please do something about this. I am grateful he will be free soon but in the mean time a break would be great.

# 32:

Feb 2, 2009, Jacquelyn Alexander, Nevada

I am a single mother of 5 girls my fiancée is incarcerated for things he did before he met me he is now in a California prison for a parole violation. Now I am being punished by the price of a phone call \$17.30 for 15 minutes just to talk to him. The cost is higher because he is in a different state than myself, that just is not fair.

# 31:

Feb 2, 2009, Angela McClure, Wisconsin

i definitely feel punished for knowing someone in prison. like it's my fault a family member and or loved one has found THEMSELVES in prison. so i shouldn't be allowed to talk to my husband. or my children to their father because he got caught doing something millions of people do everyday with no repercussions. not only are the calls insanely priced...they are allowed to cut them short at any point and not reimburse the minutes but still charge the full call. i have a touch screen instinct cell phone and my cheek accidentally hit the 6 key while laughing. we were about 1 minute into the "15 minute" 15\$ phone call and got an abrupt "dialing of extra digits is prohibited your call is being disconnected" but they sure took all the money!!

# 30:

Feb 2, 2009, Anu Sorjonen, Finland

# 29:

Feb 1, 2009, Anonymous, Pennsylvania

# 28:

Jan 31, 2009, Anonymous, Florida

How much more do you want to make families suffer? Phone calls are outrageous and they're only money in the politicians pockets or OTHERS?

# 27:

Jan 31, 2009, Sumaiyya Clement, Florida

# 26:

Jan 30, 2009, Ari R. Kolman, Canada

What's wrong with the Government here, this is Another Disgusting Example of their ties to Big Business Corruption and Crimes against Humanity!!". Ridiculous Pork barrel Policy Twisting Fanatics!! We Will All Distribute This Page to Big Media and Start Letting those "Useless Talking Heads on TV News" know what's really worth reporting to the world...

# 25:

Jan 30, 2009, Shannon Locklear, South Carolina

I agree the rates are in serious need of help. a call from AL to SC is \$24..I cant afford that!

# 24:

Jan 29, 2009, Natalie Pryor, New Jersey

People in prison are working for 'slave wages' (far less than minimum wage) making furniture for the gov't. And on the other end they and their families are being ripped off for phone calls

these companies KNOW they must make in order to maintain contact with their loved ones.  
Does this sound fair to you?

# 23:

Jan 29, 2009, Michelle Ellison, Tennessee

i'm all for lowering the cost on calls from prison! it's hard enough just to come up with the money just to visit them.

# 22:

Jan 29, 2009, Anonymous, Florida

# 21:

Jan 29, 2009, Anonymous, New Jersey

# 19:

Jan 29, 2009, Tara Richards-Tallie, Alabama

hotep family... please lets all work on this... we need help and a change....

# 18:

Jan 29, 2009, Todd Olson, Wisconsin

This Has to happened! This is a must! [www.toddsappeal.com](http://www.toddsappeal.com) & [www.toddolsonsappeal.com](http://www.toddolsonsappeal.com) All Prisons do not charge the same rates, & they keep the profits. I can tell about first hand just how many scandles I seen while in Prison in Colorado. If outside people only knew.

# 17:

Jan 29, 2009, Brent Cox, Mississippi

Lower the cost. Stop prisons profiting by inmates calling their loved ones. It's cruel and contrary to the best American principles of humane treatment of prisoners.

# 16:

Jan 29, 2009, Pearl Graham, Massachusetts

The system is just making money from families of the victims and continues to create ways to make more. There must other ways for these families to keep in touch

# 15:

Jan 29, 2009, Marpessa Kupendua, Delaware

Families and children should not suffer unfair price gouging because they need to communicate with their loved ones in prison, they are suffering enough already. The phone companies are the real criminals for unscrupulously profiting off of the misery of others.

# 14:

Jan 28, 2009, Trina Clark, Louisiana

# 13:

Jan 28, 2009, Caytoya Sharpe, California

# 12:

Jan 28, 2009, Nancy Lockhart, South Carolina

# 11:

Jan 28, 2009, Stacey Moser, North Carolina

I don't feel that it is right that we as taxpayers have to not only foot the bill to help build these prisons, but we also are giving extra money...quoted from an article I read on last year's profit made from the GTL service 574,000 dollars in revenue. That is over a 1/2 million dollars. Is this really fair to the families that love their family members to have to bear such a burden? We already go through enough with our loved ones being in prison.

# 10:

Jan 28, 2009, Courtney Heard, Canada

# 9:

Jan 28, 2009, Wanda LeDoux, Louisiana

please help my friends who are family members at Louisiana State Penitentiary. volunteer chaplain, Wanda

# 8:

Jan 28, 2009, BARBARA VAMPRAN, Louisiana

I AGREE BEING A WIFE OF CONVICT. THIS IS ANOTHER ISSUE WHERE IT ONLY EFFECTS THE MIDDLE CLASS AND THE POOR CITIZENS. THIS NEED TO CHANGE MAKE IT RESONABLE FOR EVERY FAMILY MEMBER TO TO WITH THERE FAMILY IN PRISON.

# 6:

Jan 27, 2009, Anonymous, Germany

# 5:

Jan 27, 2009, Pam Boland, Georgia

# 4:

Jan 26, 2009, Anonymous, New York

# 3:

Jan 26, 2009, Lisa Hasty, Tennessee

My son is in prison serving an unjust sentence and I hope this petition goes through. I know first-hand how much a parent has to pay to be able to speak with their own child. To all those who sign this petition, please sign the petition for Kevin Mercer to receive justice. Go to: [www.petitionsite.com/85/please-help-kevin-mercero-receive-justice](http://www.petitionsite.com/85/please-help-kevin-mercero-receive-justice).

# 1:

Jan 26, 2009, Toni Sokoloski, Massachusetts