

November 27, 2012

Received & Inspected

DEC - 5 2012

FCC Mail Room

Dewey Johnston 336-96-0441

Low Security Correctional Institution - Allentown

P.O. Box 1000

White Deer, PA. 17887

Re: High Phone Rates

Dear Chairman, Genachowski:

I am writing in a most pressing matter.

In brief, "this is a public comment for CC Docket # 96-128 (The Wright petition)." I am from Allentown, and incarcerated in the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), in Pennsylvania. I am serving 15-years. I haven't seen my little girls since 2008 due to economic circumstances, and being housed in far away desolate facilities. Phone calls in (B.O.P) are 23¢ a minute long distance, which is expensive compared to 6¢ a minute in other prisons. My little girls can't send me money to call them. I make \$13.00 a month at my (B.O.P) job. I don't get to call my little girls like they need me to. I don't get visits because it's too expensive to drive 1300-miles both ways. A phone call is all my little girls have for now, until I make it home.

Please so kindly help make it cheaper to call loved ones from prison. I deserve to be punished, but my family doesn't

Thank you!, and I am,

Sincerely,

Dewey Johnston

DEC - 5 2012

FCC Mail Room

NOV 30, 2012

Dear Sirs:

This is a Public Comment for
CC Docket # 96-128 The Wright
Petition,

I am writing in concern of the
cost of the phone calls to
talk to a loved one in prison
My loved one is only one town
away. The cost of \$1.99 for
30 minutes is outrageous. The
providers for the phone company
are making tons of money on
people that have someone in
prison. For myself in the past
twelve years I have spend a
total of 9,67296 this cost to

November 29, 2012

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FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

This is a public comment for
CC Docket #96-128 (the Wright Petition).

My name is Jodie Cobb (GDC #1248083). I am currently housed at Lee Arrendale State Prison where the telephone service provider is Global Tel Link. As it stands with the current inflated and outrageously expensive prices of a collect call, I am completely out of contact with everyone I know outside of prison. Most importantly I am unable to communicate with my 4yr old daughter, Jasmine. I delivered my daughter while incarcerated and I am yearning to bond with her in any way possible, especially via telephone where she can hear and learn to recognize her mother's voice. Children do not understand that the reason their parents don't call them is because of financial hardships. In their minds they think it is because the parents don't love them or don't want to talk to them.

One of the main goals of an inmate is to reestablish relationships and form open lines of communication. Allowing phone companies to overprice our families damages and prevents our ability to maintain adequate communication.

I need to be in the loop that is my

daughters life. Children get sick, they scrap their knees, and sometimes they cry for no reason. I want to be able to experience these things with my daughter.

If only the rates for collect calls in the state pennitentiary were more affordable to the working, struggling and often very poor classes then I might get the priveledge of hearing my daughter say "Hello Mommy" or a simple "I love You". This is a big deal to prisoners such as myself who do not get visits. Wouldn't America want you to 'parent-by-phone' instead of not parent at all?

Thank You and
Have a Nice Day,

Jodie Cobb
GDC #1248083
Lee Arrendale State Prison
P.O. Box 709 B-F2
Alto, GA. 30510

"This is a public comment for the Wright petition (CC Docket #96-12

(one of two)

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

11-29-12

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DEC - 5 2012

FCC Mail Room

I have been a prisoner in the state of Nevada for over 21 years. I would like to share with you a hardship that all inmates must endure.

our phone calls are extremely high, and have been for many years. Currently it costs me to call my family in California \$20.70 for 30 min. It used to be \$27.80 for 30 minutes.

This is a huge hardship for my family and it prevents us from talking as much as we would like to.

our families are being used as "cash cows" to line the pockets of "prisonrats". If I have money on my account and make a direct call, why should we still be charged the same as a collect call?

We know that these increased fees are due to the greedy prison machines. The packages we can buy, phone calls, canteen items, and vending machines in our visiting rooms, are all increased in cost.

The result of all of this makes it very hard on our relationships, especially in the current economy we all must face. Many inmates have very limited contact with family for the above issues.

I am very blessed and lucky to have a family that cares for me and can afford

(2)

to send me support to call them, purchase items from canteen, and come to visit me. I am in a small minority of inmates who have family that can send me such support.

I pray that you are able to help us in some way to at least cut these huge phone fees out so that inmates are able to talk to loved ones.

Prisoners are in prison for crimes that they have committed. This is a punishment. We understand this. What I find hard to understand is why should our families be punished too?

Most prisoners will be released one day. Keeping our family ties strong can only help to make the transition back to society that much easier.

Thank you very much for any assistance regarding these unbelievable prices for phone calls our families must absorb.

Dwaine Tillery * 32659

Lovelock Corr. Center
NEVADA

As) I recently was able to find a solution to the costs of phone calls, but not all inmates can do this.

DEC - 5 2012

FCC Mail Room

To: Chairman Julius Genachowski : From: Ricardo Morales EG-5159
 Federal Communication Commission : S.C.I. Laurel Highlands
 Public Comments : 5706 Glades Pike, P.O. Box 631
 445 12th Street, SW : Somerset, Pa. 15501-0631
 Washington, DC. 20554 :

INRE: Public Comment for the the Wright Petition CC Docket # 96-128
 November 26th 2012

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I'm writing in regards of an article that has been circulated on a November 2012 Graterfriends Publication in reference of the high costs of prison phones & the impact it leaves on families. On the article it states: "all who feel the cost-effects of these overwhelming phone prices are encouraged writing the Chairman of the FCC with their story in an attempt to bring light to the dis-proportionate expense of these Illegal phone company's services.

I am an Inmate incarcerated since 9/6/99 and have been using the only provided telephone-Service-Carrier which has not been a pleasure to do business with let alone the extraordinary amount of stress placed on my family due to the cost & substandard service rendered. Since it'[s] inception the phone carrier & its prices have "once" lowered their price, but to no veil' for enormous amounts of monies are still the major factor in this matter. As we know phones are used for many legitimate reasons i.e. (attorneys, Doctors, etc.) but In this instance it should (with-out-saying) be used' to encourage family ties in these trying times, which obviously has been contrary & farthest from the mark, for the so called "services rendered" by these carriers have been substandard [and] I'm sure Illegal when it comes to the fair business practice act. Which I hope you in-act/act-on if violations are foreseeable in this matter.

I (and my family) bring this matter before you in hopes It'll shed light to the problems & burden we (et al) go through as consumers of these carriers & there impositions of excessive fees, which are beyond the asking of fair-rate-pricing. The problem arises when rates at \$4.90 (for 15 minutes) of in-state calls, \$9.80 for out of states calls (& whatever' for long distance) are not the norms when you do the math & compare to legitimate competing companies (i.e. Sprint, MCI & AT&T) the mathematical equation are astronomical. (please see attached copy of fees). The burden also lies in the taxes put fourth on the phone credits bought (i.e.) a \$50.00 phone-card purchase costs \$53.00 (\$3.00 tax on an already overpriced questionable company?). On top of these matters are the constant periodical recording that the institutions implemented (in the name of security) to remind both inmates & the private sector that all calls are being monitored? Really? that specific rule is posted on front of every telephone in every institution. I think "all know" that any phone calls coming out (with exceptions of attorney client privileges) know they are being monitored. So why the constant bombardment of these recordings? especially in a period of 15 minutes? (every 5 minutes to be exact) wouldn't once in the beginning of the call suffice? These periodical recordings interrupt, interferes & robs from precious time in our already limited call-block which all add up to the reason of this petition.

To add insult to injury the phones systems are programmed & conditioned to be "too sensitive" (varying from institution to institution) therefore having "automatic" hang-ups as to have us "re-dial" and pay for the first minute which has the highest cost, which seems to have a more-or-less sinister approach masked in a legitimate one' For even outside lightning can trigger & initiate a hang-up for a re-dial. Most of the time the hang ups are justified with rationales from the institutional phone supervisors as "three way attempt" or (some other so called) illegal call-features "the consumer" supposedly of violated. These are the answers/rationales used to justify automatic hang-ups & its stance on why we cannot receive refunds (imagine' even when it is not your fault you must still pay). I doubt very much none would risk the repercussions of disciplinary action against oneself [or] having their phone privileges taken away' (or even for that matter) jeopardizing re-dialing to pay for the connection fee again. "IN THE NAME OF SECURITY" will be the justification & answer you'll get from the D.O.C.. That is how they'll put the wool over the eyes of any agency who attempts to investigate the matter. Please know that these carriers work with impunities & almost bulletproof to investigation and discipline. Improprieties are definitely in the mist with these phone carriers et al' as you will see if investigated.

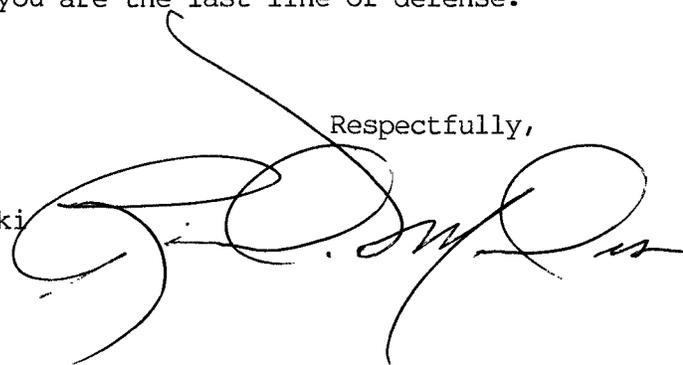
Last but not least the most insulting introduction of a new inmate-telephone-calling system to where collect calls are not able to be made the normal channels anymore (by pressing 0) "in fact" we're still reeling with the system before this current one where your family "MUST" call a 1-800 number to initiate collect calls? these new collect system wants your family to pay in advance for collect calls that have not been made yet? then have the audacity to spruce-up the advertisement as if it' were the deal of the century! "WOW" sign me up?!? "INCREDIBLE." (please see hereto attached advertisement). Within the last 14 years of my incarceration my family has spent well in-access of \$50.000 dollars in these very phone usage and we need your help in providing us an outlet/avenue/relief & investigation that makes sense. I understand that the bottom line for most companies seems to be just that... "The bottom Line!" [but] a little compassion and courtesy for the average common person who' in these trying economical times seems to be in order' for "all" are stretched beyond their capacity. These issues alone should set alarm off,"for this is-with out doubt"the most flagrant abuse of the common person I ever seen. Collect calls cannot be made w/out binding contract

Mr. Chairman of the F.C.C. I want to thank you for opening up an avenue to communicate with & attempting to want to hear my redress and all others in the same dilemma. I hope that you can help all whom are in these precarious positions of inmate phone carrier abuse for you are the last line of defense.

c: file/rm
Human Rights Defense Center
Center for Media Justice
Chairman of the FCC. Mr. Julius Genachowski

Attachment/enclosures

Respectfully,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Julius Genachowski, is written over the signature line and extends into the left margin.

level found in the community to all prisoners at all times regardless of race, religion, or gender. It is the law and Mass DOC should not be allowed to circumvent it.

Darin Bufalino
W100579, MCI Shirley, MA

QUESTION ABOUT CLOTHING

Can anyone point me to the DOC policy/memo/notice that was issued by Central Office, which required that a free brown sweat suit be given any prisoner released from RHU, who had street clothing seized, when the buying of street clothing was stopped in the '90s?"

Percy Bronson
AF-8163, SCI Houtzdale

RIGHT TO TRANSCRIPTS

Recently, there have been articles in Philadelphia's newspapers about the sentencing transcripts of two different prisoners being altered. (See Philadelphia *Daily News*, Monday, April 23, 2012; & *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Friday, May 6, 2011.) In Philadelphia, this is not a rare occurrence. Transcripts are routinely altered and/or withheld. This is a violation of the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. See *Griffen v. Illinois*, 76 S.ct. 585 (1956).

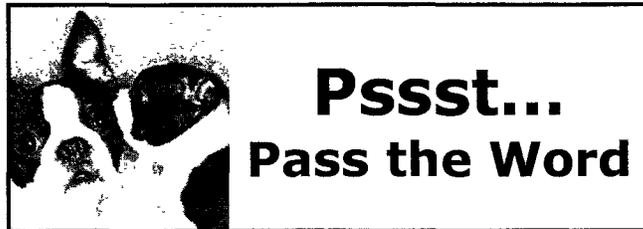
We are striving to shed some more light on this routine violation of rights in Philadelphia, and bring an end to it. Anybody that has had this problem in Philadelphia and has documentation to prove it, or can prove their efforts in obtaining their transcripts can send copies of the documents to the address below, along with the following information:

- Name:
- DOC #:
- SCI:
- Name of Judge:
- Name of Official Court Reporter:
- Brief of explanation of what was altered or withheld:

Address
Saunders
Attn: Transcripts
P.O. Box 38877
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Email: progresstwentfour@yahoo.com

Craig Saunders
FS-1684, SCI Rockview



**JOIN THE PRISON PHONE
JUSTICE CAMPAIGN**

A national coalition of media and criminal justice activists, led by the Human Rights Defense Center, Working Narratives, and the Center for Media Justice, invite you to join a campaign to fight the high cost of prison phone calls.

We need those inside our nation's jails, prisons and detention centers to speak up about the impact of the cost of prison phone calls on you and your family. With your support we will advance a state-by-state legislative challenge, while also pushing the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) to take action.

What You Can Do:

Send a brief letter to the Federal Communications Commission explaining the impact the high costs of prison phone calls have had on you and your family. Address the letter:

"Dear Chairman Genachowski," and please speak from your own personal experience. You must state the following at the top of the letter: "This is a public comment for the *Wright* Petition (CC Docket #96-128)." Your letters will be made part of the public docket in the case.

Write to:
Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Our goal is to gather thousands of powerful stories. The prison facility which registers the most letters will be highlighted on the campaign website and will get a co-producer credit on our national radio program addressing the high cost of prison phone calls.

We also need your help organizing on the outside. Ask your family members to sign up for the campaign at www.phonejustice.org and invite them to share their story about the high costs of prison phone calls. They can also register their comments online, directly with the FCC, at <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/upload/display.action?z=whn8> (enter docket #96-128).

With your support, we can end the abusive cost of prison phone calls. Encourage others to join us in the struggle!



NOTICE

Enhanced Service for Family and Friends for Inmate Telephone Calling

During the week of July 26th, 2012, families and friends who receive phone calls from inmates in any Pennsylvania Department of Corrections facility will be **automatically** converted from their GTL Direct Billed accounts to a Global Tel-Link AdvancePay Account. Families' and friends' new GTL AdvancePay account will be identified by a **new number**, which will be **their ten digit phone number**. GTL is pleased to provide this enhanced service to the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections customers.

integrity

innovation

responsiveness

accountability

Changes associated with this conversion are as follows:

AdvancePay will be at **lower rates** than traditional collect calling. Mailed monthly statements will be eliminated. AdvancePay accounts can be managed and money can be deposited into an account in several ways.

Payments to an AdvancePay account can be made by:

- Using a MasterCard or Visa branded credit or debit card online at www.offenderconnect.com
- Calling GTL's automated number 1-800 483-8314
- Mailing a check or money order payable to Global Tel-Link at PO BOX 911722, Denver, CO 80291-1722

Regardless of the method:

Families and friends can manage phone numbers on their GTL AdvancePay Account, make payments, view balances online at the offenderconnect website and more!

Toll Free Number: 1-888-385-9366 • Fax Number: 251-473-2802

Hours of operation:
Monday-Friday, 8am to Midnight, EST
Saturday and Sunday, 9am to 8pm, EST

Mailing Address:
AdvancePay Service Dept.
Department 9111722
Denver, Colorado 80291-172

Website: www.offenderconnect.com

November 19, 2012

Received & Inspected

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

DEC - 5 2012

FCC Mail Room

THIS IS A PUBLIC COMMENT FOR THE WRIGHT PETITION (CC DOCKET #96-128)

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing in regards to the outrageous telephone costs that me and my family have been forced to pay during my incarceration at SCI-Cambridge Springs since December 2006.

Sir, for the past (6) six years, I have purchased numerous "phone cards" through the commissary here. To give the Commission an idea of how much money I have spent over the past (6) six years, I have outlined below exactly how much I have purchased per year. I have also listed below how much money I have earned from my prison wages over the same period of time. The figures are as follows:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TELEPHONE COSTS</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NET PRISON WAGES</u> (after 20% is taken)
2007	562.30	2007	132.19
2008	1007.00	2008	322.29
2009	980.50	2009	330.02
2010	946.10	2010	635.84
2011	900.40	2011	697.01
2012	429.30 (up to Sept.)	2012	332.63 (up to Sept.)
TOTALS	\$ 4825.60	TOTALS	\$ 2449.98

As you can readily see from the above breakdown, the amount I have spent on phone calls alone is absolutely ridiculous. I have literally spent twice the amount of the my prison wages (after the DOC deducts 20% for fines) for telephone calls to my children. I have (2) two young sons and use the "phone cards" to call them approximately twice per week. They were 5 & 7-years old when I came to prison and they are now 11 & 13-years old. I thank God everyday that I have help from family and friends outside to help me pay for the high cost of calling them. In April of 2010, I spent \$185.00 on "phone cards" alone. That month, my sons, (ages 9 & 11) came home from school to find their Dad dead on the floor. If not for being able to call home to them, I shudder to think what would have happened. I could only talk them through their grief and anger over the telephone following their Dad's passing. I only see them about (3) three times per year on visits since they live (6) six hours away. Though I abhor the costs of the telephone system here, it is my only way to keep the lines of communication open with my sons, who I love and adore more than life.

Unfortunately, this is only a partial picture. My family struggles to make ends meet, especially my 73-year old mother (who is my biggest support at home). And, she is left with the other half of this horror story. She insists on hearing from me because she worries about me, so I call her twice a week. I used to call her collect through her own telephone company's collect call service, but now she is forced to use "Global Tel-Link" through the PA DOC. Not surprisingly, once again, the DOC is strong-arming my family to receive ludicrous amounts of money for telephone calls.

It is clear to see that someone living off of the prison wages could never afford to call home with any kind of regularity. UNLESS they have help from family and friends. The DOC has successfully **disenfranchised** inmates from having any kind of meaningful communication or bonding with their families (something that the DOC swears they are trying to avoid, especially between mothers and children). It is a sad state of affairs that the DOC is taking advantage of the poorest, most uneducated, minority persons of its state. Most prisoners come from the poorest and minority communities. In the "free" world, no company would have the audacity to charge \$5.50 for a 15-minute phone call. That company would have **no** customers and would be out of business before it ever got started. So, why is it that **we--** and now our families--are being forced to pay these outrageous prices? Also, I tried to call my attorney a few weeks back and could not get through for about three weeks. Why? Because he too is being forced to use this service. I concede that, as a prisoner, I have to use whatever telephone service they provide. But, I do believe my rights as a consumer are being violated by their monopolistic venture. The icing on the cake was when they started forcing my family AND my attorney to use the same service as well. Now, not even my family is safe from the strong arm of the DOC--my family is not in prison but they are being held hostage too.

When I was sentenced under the mandatory drug laws, I was fined \$80,000 plus \$3,000 in court costs. One would think that (7) seven years in state prison and \$83,000 would be enough to atone for the wrongs I committed while being addicted to drugs. But, obviously, it is not. The economic pain never stops. Not for me, or my innocent family. The DOC is the new industry in PA that continually needs fed. When is enough, enough?

In conclusion, the last time I knew monopolies became illegal in 1890 with the passing of the Sherman Antitrust Laws. The law was passed to combat business monopoly and unfair commercial practices and preserve and restore competition. The Clayton Act went further to include price-fixing and market-sharing agreements, collusive action in submission of bids, and collusive refusals to deal. I am no attorney, but I would venture to guess that the practices of the DOC are illegal. Although they may award contracts through the bidding process, the telephone costs cannot be awarded to the lowest bidder because I am paying much more than anyone

in the "free" world. There is no "competition". The costs are "unfair". They are a **monopoly**. There must be collusive action in the bidding process. Frankly, I am tired of having to pay the price for their "one hand washes the other" business practices. I'm already paying the highest price of all: my freedom.

Mr. Chairman, please hear my voice and my frustration about this "out of hand" issue. It is time someone takes a stand to combat this enormous price-fixing scheme.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Shelby Unger-Bacz

Shelby Unger-Bacz #OL3927
SCI-Cambridge Springs
451 Fullerton Avenue
Cambridge Springs, PA 16403-1238

November 19, 2012

Date