

Sample Letter to Members of Congress
Co-Sponsors of HR-555

The Honorable _____
Address

Re: FCC Alternative *Wright* Petition Docket No. 96-128
Fair Rates for Prisoner Phone Calls (H.R. 555)

Dear Congressman _____:

Thank you for co-sponsoring HR-555 which requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to address the problem of high prison phone service rates. The major goals of HR-555 can be accomplished in a proceeding currently before the FCC, the *Alternative Wright Petition*, (CC Docket No. 96-128). In this proceeding, the FCC can act now to eliminate the abusive rates my family is forced to pay when a family member calls home from prison.

I live in _____ (City/County and State) where I receive collect calls from (____ family member____) who is in the (____ correctional facility____). Currently, I pay ____ (please state cost, either in terms of the rate per minute or the cost of a call of a particular duration) _____ for a twenty minute call. The primary reason this rate is so high is because of the excessive commissions paid by prison phone service providers to correctional facilities. I believe these commissions are an unfair tax on families of inmates, including many who cannot afford these outrageous (or excessive, or exorbitant, or painfully high, or whatever words you believe best describe the) rates.

It is our understanding that by law, the FCC is supposed to establish fair rates on all prison phone service calls. I have included a Briefing Sheet that explains what the FCC can do NOW to stop the abusive rates on all calls. Our hope is that the FCC will prohibit the payment of commissions and establish a "fair rate" for all intra-state and inter-state calls, as well as require less expensive prepaid or debit calling in all prisons and jails.

Please write the FCC and ask them to establish fair rates for all calls. A letter from you will bring much needed attention to this issue at a very crucial time.

Thank you for your time and your support for a fair resolution of this critical issue.

Sincerely yours,

Your Name

Note: In several places there are blank lines followed by information that would help the FCC better understand your concerns. If you decide to use this letter or a modified version of the letter, please be sure to remove those lines and the information immediately following. Thank you.