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JAN 09 2000

FCC Mail Room

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
45 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Wright Alternative Rulemaking Proposal
C.C. Docket 96-128

Dear Ms Dortch,

I live in Bogalusa, LA where I receive calls from my Cousin who is in Central Mississippi Correctional facility. Currently I pay an average total of 25 dollars per 20 minute call. The calls actually cost approx. 1 dollar a minute but we have other prison phone call charges attached on our monthly bill if any calls are received so it actually totals about 25 dollars a call for 20 minutes. I am about 8 miles from the Mississippi State line and if a call is in the state I think the calls are around 6 dollars for 20 minutes. This is so unfair to families across state lines from Correctional Facilities.

The costs of these calls creates a very real problem because my husband and I are both retired and he is disabled. My Cousin has few people who can afford to take her calls and I am retired so usually I get the calls if there is anything she needs to tell us. We try to be careful and not have too many calls because of the cost but she is 3 hours away and I can only go visit once a month. Our family is getting a lot older and we have family ties that we need to talk and as I said we try to keep the calls down as much as possible but when I have 3 that hit in the same month my bill is 75 dollars higher than my phone bill. This really hurts our living expenses.

The primary reason this rate is so high is because of the 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 can not afford these outrageous, or excessive, or exorbitant, or painfully high, or whatever words you believe best describes the rates.

It is my understanding that a recent cost study submitted by prison phone service companies has determined a "fair rate" that eliminates commissions, covers legitimate costs and provides reasonable return for prison phone companies while dramatically reducing call rates. Our hope is that the FCC will prohibit the payment of commissions and establish a "fair rate" for all intra-state and inter-state, as well as require less expensive prepaid or debit calling in all correctional facilities.

Please make sure fair rates will be made available to all inmates families everywhere.

I have been trying to help fight this issue for over 7 years. Thank You.

Sincerely,



Peggy A. Miller
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