

Sample Letter to Members of Congress
(Your Congressional Representative and Senators)

The Honorable _____
Address

Re: Fair Rates for Prisoner Phone Calls

Dear Congressman (or Senator) _____:

I am writing to ask for your help in encouraging the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to eliminate the abusive rates we are forced to pay when a family member calls home from prison. There is a proceeding currently before the FCC in which the Commission can establish fair rates for all calls. *Wright Alternative Rulemaking Proposal*, C.C. Docket 96-128.

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 Congress has given the FCC the legal responsibility to establish fair rates on all prison phone 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.