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MASS. DEPT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS & CABLE

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Dear Alphonse Kamazi,

First allow me to express my appreciation to FAMM for focusing Congress' attention on such a important issue. I as well as my family personally feel the inmate telecommunications service has been simply scandalous! So thank you for all of your efforts.

My name is Corey Patterson. Since I was incarcerated in November, 2009 I spent time in both the Suffolk County Jail (Nashua Street), and Suffolk County House of Correction (South Bay) while waiting for trial. Currently I am housed at MCI Cedar Junction in Walpole after being sentenced to 15 years to life out of Suffolk superior Court. Both Nashua Street and South Bay currently use Securus/Evercom. Securus/Evercom is just way to expensive. Inmate's families are being charged almost five dollars per call. Eeach call is only 20 minutes long. Its not even a per minute rate. As soon as the family member accepts the call 80 to 90 percent of the original cost of one 20 minute call is snatched from the customers account. So inmates cannot save their loved ones money by making a 10 minute phone call oppose to twenty, actually you lose out in the long run. And what happens when the institution is suddenly locked down in the middle of a phone call? There is no way for inmates to be recompensated. There should be a 'cents per minute' phone billing system within all facilities. Dont these phone companies know that a large majority of inmates come from lower class poor families? This is the perfect example of "taking from the poor." Charging almost 50 dollars for 200 minutes! You can have a monthly unlimited phone bill for that much money in society. And its a shame because these inmate phone billing services is publicly acceptable. Just as charging inmates 75 cents for one Ramen Noodle Soup has become acceptable. I would also like to point out that inmates in the County dont have the job opportunities within the institution like State prisoners. So helping their family pay for the phone billing along with affording hygiene.

and food is impossible.

Now that I'm doing State time, I as well as my loved ones have been Global Tel Link Customers. G.T.L is a little less expensive but still very expensive. The average inmate in the state prisons are serving atleast a 5 year sentence which is double the amount of time allowed to be sentenced in the county. So the few cents difference charged is easily made up for over time. The G.T.L phone service is a extremely sensitive system. Countless of my calls were cancelled due to "three way calling", but I was not making a three way call. And there is no way to be recompensated for the lost call. I also find it very frustrating to hear the dial tone operator repeat "this call is being monitored" every 5 minutes. One time is good enough.

Again I want to thank you for allowing me to share my opinion on this matter. I will be serving time for atleast the next 13 years of my life in state facilities so this sentencing bill will directly effect me and my loved ones. My family and I believe good phone service is not sharking. It is being reasonable with customers not taking advantage. And particularly with prison phone services it is understanding the plight of the families and wanting to help keep them connected.

Cory