

Hi My name is AARON JASON MYERS #157143
I am writing in regards to the
phone calls that I don't get to make,
because of the sky high prices.
My Mother is on S.S.D.I. and
I don't ask her for anything!
because she is on government assist.
She cries to me that she wishes
to talk to me everyday if she
could. I miss my mother very
badly. I haven't even seen
her in 12 years because the
state has taken her driver's
license. My mother is almost
60 years old & COVID might take
her soon please help the
relationship that I have with
my mother

AARON JASON MYERS
DOC # 157143

At the age of 15 I was sentenced to a lengthy sentence. I can get out one day but not for a very long time. The ability to call my loved ones is the only thing that keeps me motivated to do right for myself and others. Being able to call them has kept me out of quite a bit of trouble and emotional distress after all we should be able to lean on our families for that kind of support. If I were able to call my loved ones toll free it would relieve a huge financial burden on my loved ones and allow me to mend hurt relationships and help develop my community of loved ones.

Please consider with my statement in mind.

Thank you

-Aidan Zellmer 184261

2/18/2023

Mr. Chair Weissman and members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Charlie Kestler and I am representing the Colorado Center on Law and Policy. I urge you to strongly support HB23- 1187. Access to quality health care during pregnancy and the post-partum period is critical for the health and safety of the birthing parent and infant. Jails and prisons' poor-quality healthcare has been well documented. For pregnant and post-partum people, the quality is worse, as these facilities are not equipped to deal with the complex medical needs of people in the vulnerable time. Furthermore, the negative mental health impacts of incarceration in general are compounded when separation from an infant or recovery from birth lead to more than 1 in 3 people who give birth while incarcerated having moderate to severe post-partum depression.

Incarceration itself has been shown to have negative impacts on mental health. Let alone in a vulnerable time being separated from an infant. Most facilities provide 24 hours with an infant after birth before the child is taken away. The mental health impacts of this along with the possibility of post-partum depression can have devastating impacts on a person's life.

Furthermore, incarceration has been shown to cause poverty via fines and fees that justice-involved people often are subject to as well as criminal records barring people from quality employment. People experiencing mental health disorders are also more likely to have lower earnings. Ultimately the affects of incarceration on pregnant and post-partum people compound into a devastating situation that leaves the person and child in economic hardship that is nearly impossible to escape.

Pregnant and post-partum people deserve dignity to give birth and heal in their own community. They deserve the ability to work if they are able and maintain their mental health and post-natal health in quality medical facilities. This has positive health, economic, and child-development impacts on families and communities at large. Support HB23- 1187.

Sincerely,

Charlie Kestler



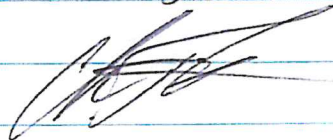
Policy Fellow
Colorado Center on Law and Policy

I'm writing in support for this bill for free phone calls.

During my incarceration it has put such a strain on my family to put money on the phone. We limit even the amount of times I can talk to them per a month due to the bills. It would be such a relief just to be able to call them every weekend to see how they are doing. I would like to stay relevant in my mother in-laws life as well. With free phone calls that would be possible. Please help this become possible we are human as well.

Sincerely

Christopher Tarringer
#131277



Thank you, Mr. Chair and committee members.

I am Catherine Ordoñez, the Policy Counsel with the ACLU of Colorado, here today in support of HB23-1133, to allow Colorado residents to communicate with their incarcerated loved ones in state prisons and privately contracted prisons at no cost and to prohibit the state from taking kickbacks.

HB-1123 will make communication more accessible and help keep families together. No family should have to choose between paying for essential needs such as healthcare, meals, electricity, or water, or speaking with a loved one who is incarcerated. Currently, 1 in 3 families with an incarcerated loved one goes into debt trying to pay predatory prison telecom vendors to maintain contact, and 87% of the financial burden is borne by women. HB-1123 would provide incarcerated individuals with the social support they need to succeed, and would minimize the trauma inflicted on the children of incarcerated individuals.

Further, regular communication with family and loved ones encourages rehabilitation, lowers recidivism rates, and assists with re-entry. See, e.g., The Urban Institute. "Families and Reentry: Unpacking How Social Support Matters," Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (June 2012), <https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/24921/1001630-Families-and-Reentry-Unpacking-How-Social-Support-Matters.PDF>. Thus, making regular communication with incarcerated individuals more accessible is beneficial not only for those individuals and their families, but for the safety of staff within those facilities and society at large.

Given the disparate impact of the prison system on communities of color, the profiteering off of telecom services in prisons and jails is a civil rights priority. Nationally, "prison-telecommunications services profit from vulnerable families trying to stay in touch with their loved ones, generating \$1.4 billion annually." See *Advocates Applaud Passage of the Martha Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act of 2022*, National Consumer Law Center (Dec. 2022), <https://www.nclc.org/advocates-applaud-passage-of-the-martha-wright-reed-just-and-reasonable-communications-act-of-2022/>. By passing this bill, the Colorado legislature would prohibit the state from profiting off of the prison industry in the form of taking kickbacks from prison telecom vendors and would help mitigate the disparate impacts of the criminal legal system on people of color.

The ACLU of Colorado asks you to vote Yes on HB23-1133. Thank you.

To whom it may concern

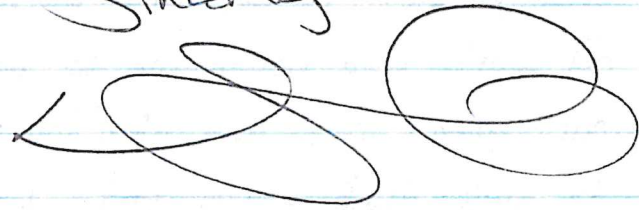
Feb. 15. 2023

I have been incarcerated for 11 years. I have spent thousands of dollars on phone calls, and my family even more. The only consistent outlet to the outside world is our phone calls. The only real consistent means to connecting ~~and~~ ~~maintaining~~ maintaining or even evolving in relationships is through our phone calls. In order to be rehabilitated we need strong support systems. There has been many times through my incarceration when I was joyfully, able to participate in my childrens Birthdays, Christmas, and other holidays /celebrations because of phone calls. Some of my family's most cherish moments I was able to be a small part of because of phone calls. However on the flip side because of the times, the hardest of times for me and my family's financial state we had no money for phone calls. There has been times through illnesses, Deaths, and painful circumstances I was not able to support, be supported or even say my good-byes to loved ones that have passed on because I was not able to pay for phone calls. The torture of not being a supportive Man in times of need because I can't afford phone calls is the cruelest of punishments nobody should ever feel. If we were to get free unlimited phone calls you would save people from those unspeakable dark inhuman times. If we had the capability to call free when need be our lives, rehabilitation relationships would be what we need to learn and evolve from our old-selves. Please take my/our

pleas to be granted the blessing of communication on
a consistent Free when need be basis. Thank you for
your time and consideration.

Sincerely

Diamond Luero

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and curves.

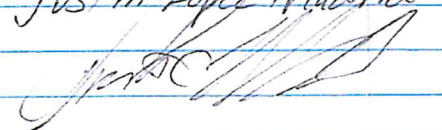
To whom it may concern,

7-15-23

I am writing this in regards to inmate phone calls being a financial struggle and burden on my family.

I am 4 yrs clean and sober for the first time ever in my life, and the blessings of restored relationships from my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has been a miracle. I've got seven kids, an elderly mom, some sick brothers and sisters, uncles & aunts, my cousins and brothers and sisters in Christ that are all part of my support system, but they are all struggling financially and barely making it from check to check. I am trying so hard to rebuild all the broken relationships that was caused by me due to my addiction, but its hard to be a father from in here when I only get to talk to my kids maybe twice a month if that because nobody can afford phone time. My kids are from 4 different mothers so I'm not just calling to one residence to talk to my children, I write letters, but it takes a week just to get there and they are always going through something that requires immediate attention and communication and because the financial struggle is so real I am unable to build and strengthen my bondage and build on my relationships with my kids and family because we have no money for the phone. In the last year I lost 2 brothers, 2 uncles, my little cousin and a few family friends and I will never have a chance to talk to them again because I could not afford a phone call. I am now living a life of Recovery and doing all I can to rebuild relationships I have broken, but now am able to be a part of their lives and the only thing hindering us from building our relationships and growing together is not being able to communicate more than twice a month. I am begging, please help with the financial struggle of not being able to afford phone time and stay connected with my family and support system. I pray that you consider not just my request, but all requests recieved. Thank you for your time. God Bless You.

Sincerely,

Justin Lopez Madrid


To whom it may concern, My name is Jordan Ortiz DOC#190459. I have been incarcerated for almost 3 years and throughout my time me and my family haven't been able to be in contact on a more reasonable way. I have only been able to talk to them once a week, every week with the free 15 minute phonecall. Through out the week so many things happen, positive & negative to me & my family. Though those moments we aren't allowed to support each other because we have used our free phone time already & my family cannot afford to pay for phone calls. I miss my loved ones and wish our relationships were stronger. You could grant my wishes by passing this bill. please help me and my family.

Keegan Callahan

Hi my Name is Keegan Callahan, I have been an inmate at DOC since 9/16/19. I call home every Day and talk on an average of 20 minutes every Day. I want to let you know about how Being able to Talk to family and loved ones has truly done more for me in my Re-habilitation into a good person that D.O.C. has Done. The ability to call home when I was mad of struggling has kept me from getting into fights and other forms of trouble. ~~It has~~ been my phone calls home have been instrumental in fixing issues and mending Relationships with my family, who is also my support system. I have been fortunate enough to be able to afford the rather expensive phone calls, but I know of plenty of inmates who live off of the measly 3-4 Dollars a month that the state gives them, which forces them to choose, either buy hygiene products with that 3-4 Dollars, or buy phone time only to be able to make 3-4 calls a month. I couldn't imagine not being able to call home to talk to loved ones, I can guarantee that the mood and Rehabilitation of inmates would greatly improve if phone calls were made free of charge. It would create a healthier and safer Prison environment and ~~culture~~ ^{culture} for not only the inmates ~~but~~ BUT the D.O.C. employees. I strongly urge ~~to~~ the powers that be to pass this Bill for free phone calls. Thank you for your time and consideration.

— Keegan Callahan

I Leandro L Garcia

Supt Bill 1133 Do To The
Facts of being Indugit And Having my
Family Dish out money They Do NOT Have
To Allow me To call them Is bin A
Big Seandli's Scan of money To A Phone
Company For The Past 11 years

Also why cant we pay For Are own
call Phone on A monthly plan....

So yes on Bill 1133

02/10/2023

Leandro L Garcia

Testimony House Bill 23-1123

Hello everyone. My name is Nathan Jerard Dunlap and I currently reside in the Colorado State Penitentiary. I'm here to offer testimony for ~~SB23-039~~ and HB23-1123.

Keeping in touch with my family and friends is important to my mental health and overall well-being. They are my moral compass and support group. Over the years of my incarceration, the costs of voice, video, and electronic messaging has limited my ability to stay in regular contact with these very important people, and thus receive the valuable advice and guidance they provide.

Making it so that the Colorado Department of Corrections can no longer receive any revenue from the administration of any penal communication services is going to greatly improve my ability to keep in touch with family and friends and receive the positive support, advice, and guidance they provide.

For that reason, I ask that you vote yes on ~~SB23-039~~ and HB23-1123.

2-16-2023

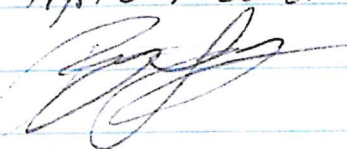
TO WHOM THIS MAY CONCERN

I AM WRITING IN CONCERN TO C.D.C.C. PHONE CALLS THAT COST \$1.80 FOR 30 MINS. ITS A BURDEN ON ME AND MY FAMILY TO AFFORD PHONE CALLS I HAVE 8 CHILDREN FROM 41 AMAZING WOMEN I AM UNABLE TO TALK TO 6 OF MY CHILDREN DUE TO NOT BEING ABLE TO AFFORD PHONE CALLS MY MOTHER AND FATHER HAVE 2 THAT I CAN CALL ONCE A WEEK DUE TO MY FATHER BEING DISABLED AND MY MOTHER THE ONLY ONE ABLE TO WORK AND SUPPORTING MY FATHER AND CHILDREN. FREE PHONE CALLS WOULD MEAN A LOT TO US IN HERE IT WOULD HELP US WITH OUR MENTAL STABILITY BEING ABLE TO STAY CONNECTED WITH OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS. I MYSELF AM NOT FROM COLORADO I DONT HAVE A SINGLE FAMILY MEMBER HERE SO ALL I HAVE IS A PHONE CALL ONCE A WEEK AND LETTERS ITS REALLY HARD ON ME NOT BEING ABLE TO STAY CONNECTED WITH MY FAMILY IVE BEEN LOCKED UP SINCE 2014 AND GET 5 YRS TO GO AND WOULD LOVE TO BE ABLE TO CALL AND TALK TO MY CHILDREN MORE THAN ONCE A WEEK IT WOULD REALLY HELP ME AND MY FAMILY TO BE ABLE TO TALK.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION
OF OUR LETTERS

SINCERLY

RYAN NEWTON



Testimony House Bill 23-1123

My name is Robert Sprawls. I'm writing on behalf of myself and all incarcerated fathers in our correctional facilities.

I'm a father of 3, 2 daughters and 1 son. After being incarcerated I've tried my best to let my children know I still love them and I didn't abandon them. That is hard to do without being able to speak with them.

My son Izack is now an adult whom refuses to answer letters from a dad who was never there for him. When he was 10 he told him mom he needed me in his life. I tried for years to keep in contact with him. He grew up, decided he can't have a relationship with a father for 20-minutes at a time, once a month. That is my fault for being incarcerated. This might not be if SB23-039/HB23-1123 passes. I support this Bill.

My youngest daughter, Sarrah, graduated last year. She doesn't call me dad. She thought I was her pen pal for her first 10 years. She just assumed all little girls had pen pals. I only got information from her grandmother for her first 18 years. That's how I know about my daughter. Now I have no contact because her grandmother said, "She's 18, if she wants she'll get in touch." I believe this would've been different if SB23-039 passes.

My oldest daughter had my grandchildren that I've never seen, met, or talked with. She is headed down my same path of addiction. I believe this may be different if we were able to talk, I could mentor her in the pit-falls of life.

My mother Sharon and brother David and his family have become my only lifeline to the outside world. They have become my best friends because of me being able to call them. I am put into the position of choosing witch family I'm going to call because of the cost of calls.

We are humans who made mistakes. Some will come back to families they've lost contact with and don't know anymore. Some won't. Our families are not at fault because of the positions in life. The affordability of human contact with the people you love or who love you should not be a business opportunity. Please help Colorado families stay together.

I support SB23-039 the free phone communication bill.

I beg you, ask, demand, plead for your support in passing SB23-039 & HB23-1133.

Respectfully Robert Sprawls #134234