

VOTE TO CONNECT CONNECTICUT FAMILIES

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE BILL



WHAT WILL SB 972 D0 DO?

- Allows Connecticut residents to communicate with their incarcerated loved ones at no cost
- Prohibits the state from taking kickbacks from its prison telecom vendor
- Protects in-person visits for Connecticut residents with incarcerated loved ones

“ His son asks to talk to his father every day... I have trouble getting by because I have to think about saving money just to spend it on the calls.

50th

State rank in affordability of prison calls

Administrators have just renewed the contract with new rates that would make the state 45th.

\$4.87

Cost of 15-minute prison call

Connecticut residents pay \$0.21 - \$0.325 per min compared to \$0.029 per min in Rhode Island.

\$12.2M → \$1.3M

Annual spending of families on prison calls

Connecticut takes \$7.0M in kickbacks and Securus pockets \$5.2M.

Cost of providing call service in prisons

To make up for kickbacks, Connecticut needs to allocate \$8.3M to provide families call service.

SUPPORT CONNECTING FAMILIES BECAUSE...

- COVID-19 has worsened the cost burden of calls as visits are restricted and families struggle financially.
- Every child deserves to hear “I love you” from their parent. Communication is critical to reducing the trauma suffered by the 1 in 28 children whose parents are incarcerated.
- Communication with loved ones outside interrupts the toxicity inside prisons. When people are supported, they become committed to their own success and engage in rehabilitative practices.
- No program is more effective at improving reentry success than communication that strengthens relationships between incarcerated people and their support networks.
- Shifting the cost of core state functions onto families, particularly low-income women of color, misrepresents state priorities and is not effective, sustainable, or ethical.
- The positive social and fiscal benefits associated with communication significantly outweigh its costs.