Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 21, 2015

The Honorable Thomas Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communication Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

I write in support of the Federal Communication Commission's proposed rule to reform Inmate Calling Services (ICS) that will reduce phone rates for prisoners and immigrant detainees.

As you know, the proposed rule would significantly lower the cost of prison telephone calls by reforming the cost structure and fees. The rules would place a cap on calling rates, reducing the average intrastate call from close to $3.00 to not more than $1.65. The proposed rules limit "kickbacks" by service providers to prisons and would also place limits and caps on service charges, which can make up almost 40% of the cost of a call. It would also ban flat rate calling and increase transparency through annual reporting and certification requirements.

The current excessively high cost of prison telephone calls is prohibitively expensive and burdensome for prisoners, detainees, and their families. Contact while inmates are in prison allows them to remain connected to their families and communities. Maintaining these connections can help reduce recidivism, promote rehabilitation, enable prisoners to prepare for life beyond prison by setting up employment and housing, and allow prisoners to speak with lawyers and counselors. This rule will help millions of Americans remain connected to their loved ones, and I strongly support its implementation.

Sincerely,

Patrick Murphy
Patrick E. Murphy
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Frederica S. Wilson
Frederica S. Wilson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

CC: Commissioners Clyburn, Rosenworcel, Pai, and O'Rielly

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