

From: [Amy Jo Homer](#)
To: [Legislative Commission](#)
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To whom it may concern:

Hello, I am writing on behalf of my incarcerated husband, his 80 year old father and myself. My husband has been in for 19 years, I have been back with him for 8 years now. In this 8 years I have seen many price hikes, and an occasional price cut. Its getting outrageous the amount of money we have to put on the phones. \$2 per call is just robbery. The calls drop now that we use GTL, and still charge us. This is not financially doable for my father in law. He lives in PA, and has to have a nursing assistant close by when my husband calls so she can help him accept the call. Then charging him a fortune just to talk to his son is insane. He is literally trying to stay alive to see my husband in a year. Taking his money doesn't help.

The added fees just to put money on our messaging app so my husband can get videos and pictures has gone up. \$5 to put \$10 on. I feel the DOC is taking full financial advantage of incarcerated individuals' families. I feel horrible for the lower income families trying to survive and keep in contact with their loved ones. You almost need a second job JUST to put money on the phones and let your LO get commissary. We have had to cut out quarterly packages to fund the other things.

\$300-\$400 a month for commissary/hygiene (just for the basics)

\$100-\$200 a month so he can message and play games or listen to music on his end. And this doesn't last long with movies/songs being .05 cents a **minute**.

\$120 has been put on the phone in just 1 month.

\$100 put on messaging/pictures which costs me \$50+ in extra fees.

This is around \$800 a month this is insane.

These tablets have truly been a blessing. I see my husbands moral has changed drastically. He's like a kid on Christmas, especially since new technology isn't something he has experienced. So for this reason I pay the costs. I pay so I can talk to my husband every day. So he can talk to my daughter. So his aging father can talk to his baby boy. But it is not fair how the system is taking advantage of us.

Phone calls should be free, if not at least back to the .06 cents. Movies, music etc should also be free. Along with games on the tablet. These are all free on our phones. Fees for putting money on should be eliminated or dropped considerably. Food in visiting should be lowered, we already spend enough to get there. Stop taking advantage of family/friends of incarcerated individuals.

Thank you for your time.

Amy Vazquez