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December 03, 2014

The Honorable Tom Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

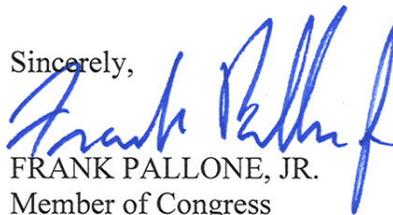
I write today to express my support for the Federal Communications Commission's recent efforts to achieve fair and reasonable rates for inmate telephone calls.

The present Inmate Calling Service (ICS) relies on collect calling, pre-paid accounts, and long-distance calling, putting an unnecessary financial burden on inmates' families. Inmates should be able to remain in contact with their families through more affordable and competitive means. The recent FCC proposal—which eliminates all site commission payments on both interstate and intrastate calls through the ICS—promotes competition and ensures both reasonable rates for the families and fair compensation for providers.

I believe that the present system is incredibly troubling. For example, an inmate in New Jersey, who placed a simple fifteen minute phone call, would be charged roughly \$4.95. As these costs accumulate over months and years, a growing financial burden is placed on the inmate and their family. It is critically important that the FCC examine what costs are truly incurred by facilities through the ICS and whether the current rates appropriately reflect those costs.

I applaud the FCC for its commitment to reforming these policies that too often disproportionately affect detainees with minimal financial resources. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

  
FRANK PALLONE, JR.  
Member of Congress