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In Memory

Wendell Brown, Dorothy Briggs,
Frances Jalet Cruz, Wally Ellinger,
Cong. Mickey Leland, Loren Perry,
Lawrence Pope, Don Taylor, Robert
Vieweg, Wylene West and Lois
Williamson

Issue Chapters

CURE-SORT Sex Offenders Restored
through Treatment
FedCURE Federal Prison Chapter
FIND-CURE Furnishing Imprisoned
Non-citizens with Direction
LIFE-LONG CURE Lifer Chapter
NDRAN of CURE National Death Row
Assistance Network

African Chapters/Leaders

BENIN-CURE Agnes Agboton
BURKINA FASO-CURE Mamadou
Karambiri
CAMEROON-CURE Therese Kraka
COTE d'IVOIRE-CURE Venance Brou
GHANA-CURE Kassi Augustin
GUINEA-CURE Keletigui Kamara
NIGERIA-CURE Sylvester Uhaa S.J.
TOGO-CURE Lawson Greenly

Campaigns

eTe (Equitable Telephone Charges)

For Whom The Bells Toll
Madeline Murphy

Consultants

Alan Pogue Photography
Paul Kruger and Steve Tolin Computers
Thomas Petersik, Work Programs
Claudia Broudeaux, Rudy/Betty Cypser
and Cindy Scaglione, International
Dick Melia, Disability Issues in Prison



Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants

An International Effort by People In Prison, those Formerly in Prison,
their families and Other Concerned Citizens to Reduce Crime
Through Criminal Justice Reform

PO Box 2310 Washington, DC 20013 202-789-2126
cure@curenational.org www.curenational.org

April 15, 2008

Electronic Ex Parte Filing

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Petitioners' Alternative Rulemaking Proposal
CC Docket No. 96-128

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Yesterday, Pauline Sullivan, Kay Perry and the undersigned for the National Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants ("CURE") met with Scott Bergmann, Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein, to discuss the excessiveness of inmate long distance rates. In addition, approximately 30 CURE members from across the United States accompanied the CURE representatives and offered personal accounts of their difficulties due to excessive telephone rates in maintaining contact with family or loved ones who are (or were) incarcerated.

The CURE representatives stressed the importance of and urgent need for Commission relief in the above-referenced proceeding to lower inmate long distance rates. The CURE representatives also relied upon and distributed the enclosed attachment.

In accordance with Section 1.1206(b)(1) of the Commission's rules, this letter and attachment are submitted for inclusion in the record of the above-captioned docket. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned with any questions or concerns about this letter or the issues discussed.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Charles Sullivan

Charles Sullivan, Executive Director
National Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants

cc: Scott Bergmann

**RATES FOR 15-MINUTE INTERSTATE
PHONE CALLS FROM STATE PRISON SYSTEMS**

<u>From State</u>	<u>Collect</u>	<u>Debit/ Prepaid</u>	<u>From State</u>	<u>Collect</u>	<u>Debit/ Prepaid</u>
AK	\$17.30		MT	\$5.75	
AL	\$14.15		NC	\$17.30	
AR	\$10.70		ND	\$6.06	\$5.10
AZ	\$17.77		NE	\$3.75	\$3.00
CA	\$17.30		NH	\$2.70	\$2.25
CO	\$17.30	\$4.10	NJ	\$15.10	
CT	\$17.30		NM	\$10.50	\$7.50
DE			NV	\$17.30	
FL	\$1.80	\$1.62	NY	\$2.30	
GA	\$17.30		OH	\$17.30	
HI			OK	\$3.60	
IA		\$7.50	OR	\$17.30	\$10.60
ID	\$15.60	\$14.65	PA	\$12.61	\$9.75
IL	\$17.30		RI	\$5.80	\$5.22
IN	\$5.00		SC	\$8.20	\$6.56
KS	\$7.70	\$6.55	SD	\$11.75	\$3.92
KY	\$6.50		TN	\$14.30	\$12.87
LA	\$7.05		TX		
MA	\$13.35		UT	\$10.31	
MD	\$7.20	\$4.50	VA	\$8.85	\$8.40
ME	\$13.35	\$4.50	VT	\$10.75	\$8.10
MI	\$17.34	\$17.34	WA	\$17.41	\$17.41
MN	\$17.30	\$4.80	WI	\$7.25	
MO	\$2.50	\$1.50	WV	\$6.25	
MS	\$13.35		WY	\$12.85	\$10.76

For more information, contact:

CURE
 PO BOX 2310
 WASHINGTON, DC 20013-2310
 202-789-2126
cure@curenational.org

A Sample from CURE's Mail Bag

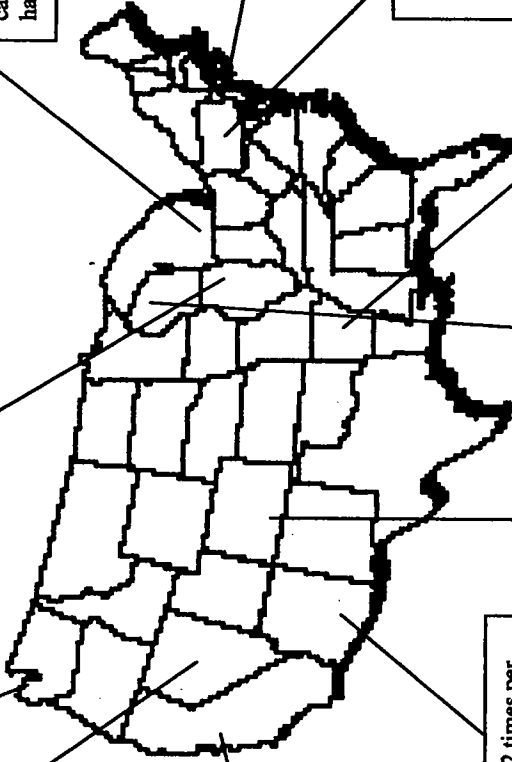
"I can only make two calls a year because each 15 minute call (one to Texas and one to California) costs \$22."

"His phone calls are terribly expensive." (The bill enclosed with her letter included the following charges for calls with her fiancé: \$30.65 for each of two 30-minute calls, \$11.96 for a 9-minute call, and \$27.98 for a 27-minute call.)

"It costs \$38.00 to call my mom in Texas for 30 minutes. The prison gets over 50% of that. My mom went through chemo for colon cancer. She can't afford to talk to me. Yet my voice would help her and her love would help my sanity."

"I no longer can call home over this big rip off, because my family has a hard enough time trying to make ends meet."

"I can only call my mom 1-2 times per year; the cost of the phone bill is \$19.41 for 15 minutes.... I would love to call my family members (in California, Utah, Nevada, and Colorado) more often, but they are on a fixed income."



"My mom is 84-years old, in bad health, finances are terrible. I have not been able to phone her in 6+ years, because she has a rotary phone. Even if I could call her, she cannot afford the expensive calls! I have had no prison income in 6+ years!"

"I won't call friends who decide to put money in the phone system account. Three to four calls is \$50! And that's disrespectful..."

"My mother is in a nursing home and suffers from a neurological brain disorder. I write to her. Unfortunately, she cannot write back. Due to the low institutional income I receive once a month, paying for one call would leave me unable to buy hygiene products. This leaves me with no response from her."

"Your family has to prepay for your phone call. There is a surcharge and for a local call it can be up to \$8 for 15 minutes. Out-of-state is an automatic \$10."

"I must limit the number of calls to my family. My parents are retired and live on a set income, so my calling is just another burden I've caused them."

"My long time best friend Blanche is 81 years old and, despite my mistakes, still supports and encourages me to understand and stay hopeful.... We both look forward to our Saturday morning calls and always hope that others less fortunate financially could also.... Without Blanche, I would have lost any or all hope."