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**To:** Solutions2020 <Solutions2020@fcc.gov>  
**Subject:** Prison inmate phone rates

A point which sometimes gets lost is that it's not the inmates who pay in real life. Prison jobs don't cover the cost of phone calls. For example, the pay range in Federal prisons is from 12 to 42 cents per hour. It's the families of the inmates who bear the costs by sending money to the inmate's trust account.

Those families are not convicts. They are free citizens who already pay taxes to support correctional institutions. It is unjust to stick them with the cost of kickbacks, excuse me, "facility commissions" to prison administrations.

Also: this is not the 20th century. Families should be allowed to set up Google Voice phone numbers local to the inmate's prison.

If the phone call vendors want monopolies, treat them like monopolies with price regulation and government handling of complaints against them. There are a lot of complaints. On one support forum for friends and family of prisoners, a poll found the most "despised" entities in the prison system to be the phone companies.