

VOTE TO CONNECT MARYLAND FAMILIES



WHAT WILL SB 948 AND HB 1366 DO?

- Allow Maryland residents to communicate with their incarcerated loved ones in state correctional facilities at no cost
- Protect in-person visits for Maryland residents with incarcerated loved ones

Sen. Waldstreicher
Del. Roberson

“Many times, I have been unable to call home and check on my family members. My mother has been diagnosed with early signs of dementia, and my father is the primary caretaker. He has a limited income and is unable to keep money on the phone.”

- Corey Downs, a currently incarcerated loved one

\$12.3 M → **\$3.0 M**

Annual spending by families on communication

MD DPSCS charges \$0.03 per minute to speak with an incarcerated loved one, or \$0.45 for a 15-minute phone call.

Annual cost to state of making communication free

Providing free communication in prisons is **cost-effective program that promotes rehabilitation** and becoming increasingly so with innovative models being pioneered across the nation.

SUPPORT CONNECTING FAMILIES BECAUSE...

- **1 in 3 families with an incarcerated loved one goes into debt** trying to pay predatory prison telecom vendors to maintain contact and 87% of the financial burden is borne by women.
- Every child deserves to hear “I love you” from their parent. Communication **mitigates the trauma suffered by the 1 in 28 children whose parents are incarcerated.**
- Communication with loved ones disrupts the toxicity of prisons and creates hope. When supported, incarcerated people are more committed to their own success and engaged in rehabilitative behaviors, which **decreases incidents in facilities and reduces recidivism, making officers and us all safer.**
- **No program is more accessible and effective at improving reentry success** than communication that strengthens relationships between incarcerated people and their support networks.
- The positive social and fiscal benefits associated with communication significantly outweigh its costs.



MARYLAND ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE REFORM
Citizens working to reform criminal justice in Maryland



United Church of Christ
Media Justice Ministry



MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE
PUBLIC DEFENDER



Contact Alyssa Ackbar (aackbar@worthrises.org) with questions.