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December 27, 2024

Dear STEVE, Mario and Kyle,

Thank you for your Memo regarding the importance of having free phone calls, emails and video VISITS. I would like to advocate to RI Legislators the importance of this as a means to foster relationships between inmates and their families and friends.

I have been incarcerated for 16 years and am fortunate to be able to keep in touch with my family members and friends through these avenues of communication.

However, this is very costly and prohibits many inmates from reaching out to people for lack of funds.

Inmates as you know earn a small monthly stipend for doing various jobs within the prison. These stipends have not increased in over 35 years despite the higher and higher cost of commissary items. Legislation to make communication free is welcomed and warranted and will ensure that inmates are not isolated and can foster relationships with the outside which will assist with their mental health and for opportunities



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for jobs and healthy relationships.

It is my understanding that our neighboring states of MA and CT have implemented this legislation long ago, leaving RI behind.

I wish to thank all 3 of you guys for all you do to help the inmate population you once were a part of.

You should be proud of your successes since release.

God Bless.

Sincerely,

James Cook

James Cook  
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ER-28B