

March 24, 2026

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Duckworth:

Our organizations write in strong support of your amendment to S.1962 to repeal the Federal Communications Commission's 2025 Order on Incarcerated People's Communications Services (IPCS).<sup>1</sup> That Order misapplies the historic, bipartisan reforms contained in the Martha Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act, which the U.S. Senate adopted unanimously in 2021 and further sets aside the unanimous bi-partisan vote by the FCC adopted in July 2024.<sup>2</sup>

The 2025 Order raises rates, reinstates higher caps for smaller facilities, and adds a new per-minute facility cost additive—undermining Congress and reversing years of pro-consumer rulemaking based on an inadequate and unsubstantiated record. As public interest advocates documented in filings before the Commission, the FCC Bureau impermissibly suspended those protections without notice-and-comment, without any party requesting such sweeping relief, and in direct contradiction of Congress's mandate to ensure just and reasonable rates.<sup>3</sup> The FCC then adopted these problematic rulings, and made some of them more costly for consumers, with almost no further development of the record. That vote cost families hundreds of millions of dollars. Congress should act now to restore the protections for incarcerated people and their loved ones.

The Committee should support the Duckworth amendment and protect incarcerated people and their families, counsel and clergy from predatory IPCS rates.

Sincerely,

United Church of Christ Media Justice Ministry

Benton Institute for Broadband & Society  
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship  
CURE National  
Direct Action for Rights and Equality  
Electronic Privacy Information Center  
Human Rights Defense Center  
Just Future Project  
The Leadership Conference on Civil and  
Human Rights

National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of  
its low-income clients)  
Public Knowledge  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center  
The Utility Reform Network (TURN)  
Worth Rises

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<sup>1</sup> Incarcerated People's Communications Services; Implementation of the Martha Wright-Reed Act; Rates for Interstate Calling Services, Report and Order, Order on Reconsideration, WC Docket Nos. 23-62, 12-375, 90 Fed. Reg. 56013 (Dec. 5, 2025).

<sup>2</sup> Incarcerated People's Communications Services; Implementation of the Martha Wright-Reed Act, Report and Order, 39 FCC Rcd 7647 (2024).

<sup>3</sup> See, e.g., United Church of Christ Media Justice Ministry *et al.* Letter, WC Docket Nos. 23-62, 12-375 (filed Oct. 21, 2025), <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/1021065279217/1>; Application for Review of the Public Interest Parties, In re Incarcerated People's Communications Services; Implementation of the Martha Wright-Reed Act, WC Docket Nos. 23-62, 12-375 (filed July 30, 2025), <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/10731681711939/1>.