

March 10, 2009

The Honorable _____
United States Senate
_____ Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator _____:

I am writing to express support for S. 251, *the Safe Prisons Communications Act of 2009* and to offer our assistance in helping to getting this much-needed legislation passed by Congress.

We in corrections face many difficulties every day and are constantly being challenged by inmates. While many are intent on serving their sentence, following the rules and obeying security regulations, some pose real security threats and are constantly trying to test the system and the staff. Lately, we have encountered a new challenge. Cell phones are being smuggled into correctional facilities and being found in the possession of inmates more and more frequently.

Perhaps more than anything else, it is most important for the security of the facility and the safety of the public that we in corrections have the ability to monitor and completely control inmate communications with others inside and outside of the facility. Possessing a cell phone gives inmates access to a private line of communication from which they can harass, threaten and intimidate their victims, engage in unlawful activities and even continue criminal enterprises.

Current security systems and procedures will prevent most contraband from getting into the hands of inmates but the evolution of cell phones and wireless technology is making it more difficult. Staff, with their limited resources, requires technological support to help combat this problem. Cell phone jamming technology is cost effective and would solve this problem for sure. This bill would permit the FCC, upon request, to grant waivers of subsection (a) of the Communications Act to allow for the use of such jamming devices at prisons and jails.

We urge you to support S. 251, *the Safe Prisons Communications Act of 2009* and look forward to working with you and the committee to get this much-needed legislation passed in Congress.

Sincerely,