

Testimony in Support of H.1900, “An Act Relative to Telephone Service for Inmates in All Correctional and Other Penal Institutions in the Commonwealth”

Joint Committee on the Judiciary

October 19, 2021

Chairman Michael Day
Chairman Jamie Eldridge
Joint Committee on the Judiciary

Dear Chairman Day, Chairman Eldridge, and Members of the Committee:

We write in strong support of H.1900, “An Act Relative to Telephone Service for Inmates in All Correctional and Other Penal Institutions in the Commonwealth.”

This critical racial and economic justice measure is urgently needed to stop the financial exploitation of families with loved ones in prison and jail, and to preserve the family ties that are crucial to success after incarceration.

To date, 61 organizations representing statewide and local grassroots groups from across the Commonwealth have endorsed the bill. Please see the list below.

We urge you to report this bill favorably, as written, as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Leslie Credle, Justice 4 Housing
Bonnie Tenneriello, Prisoners’ Legal Services
Elizabeth Whalley, Building Up People Not Prisons

Cc: Representative Tyler

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| ACLU of Massachusetts |
| Black and Pink Massachusetts |
| Boston Immigrant Justice Accompaniment Network |
| Bristol County for Correctional Justice |
| Building Up People Not Prisons |
| Business Innovation Center |
| Central Massachusetts Jobs with Justice |
| Coalition for Effective Public Safety |

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| Coalition for Social Justice |
| Committee for Public Counsel Services |
| Committee of Interns and Residents SEIU |
| Community Action Agency of Somerville, Inc. |
| Community Reentry Program Inc. |
| Congregation B'nai Israel Tikkun Olam Committee |
| Disability Law Center |
| Disability Policy Consortium |
| Families for Justice as Healing |
| First Parish in Brookline |
| GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) |
| Greater Boston Legal Services CORI & Re-entry Project |
| Haley House |
| Immigration Justice Task Force - First Parish Concord |
| Jobs NOT Jails Coalition |
| Justice For Housing, Inc. |
| Kavod Boston |
| MASC Massachusetts Against Solitary Confinement |
| Massachusetts Bail Fund |
| Massachusetts Bar Association |
| Massachusetts Chapter of the National Organization for Women |
| Massachusetts Coalition for Health Equity |
| Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women |
| Massachusetts Communities Action Network |
| Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition |
| Massachusetts Law Reform Institute |
| Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee |
| Metro Boston Recovery Learning Community |
| Muslim Justice League |
| Mystic Valley Action for Choice |

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| National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low-income clients) |
| National Lawyers Guild-Massachusetts Chapter |
| National Lawyers Guild-Harvard Law School Chapter |
| New Beginnings Reentry Services |
| New England Innocence Project |
| New Vision Organization, Inc. |
| Northeast Justice Center |
| Out Now |
| Prison Policy Initiative |
| Prisoners' Assistance Project |
| Prisoners' Legal Services of Massachusetts |
| Showing Up for Racial Justice Boston |
| Southeast Recovery Learning Community |
| The F8 Foundation |
| The Real Cost of Prisons Project |
| Union of Minority Neighborhoods |
| Unitarian Universalist Mass Action |
| White & Associates, PC |
| Women's Bar Association |
| Worth Rises |