



DON'T LEAVE US
HANGIN'



#PHONEHOMENY

PEOPLE INCARCERATED IN NEW YORK STATE PRISONS HAVE EXTREMELY LIMITED ACCESS TO PHONE CALLS AND OTHER COMMUNICATION, WHICH CREATES MANY PROBLEMS:

- **IT DRIVES UP VIOLENCE IN PRISONS.** PRISONS HAVE AN INSUFFICIENT NUMBER OF PHONES, AND PEOPLE MUST BE LET OUT OF THEIR CELLS TO USE THEM. BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE DESPERATE TO HAVE CONTACT WITH THEIR LOVED ONES ON THE OUTSIDE, FIGHTS OVER THE PHONE ARE COMMON.
- **IT WEAKENS FAMILY TIES AND PUTS STRESS ON FAMILIES.** INCARCERATED PEOPLE ARE ONLY ALLOWED TO CALL PHONE NUMBERS THAT ARE PREAPPROVED, AND THEY ARE ONLY ALLOWED 15 NUMBERS ON THEIR PREAPPROVED LIST. INTERNATIONAL CALLS ARE ONLY ALLOWED ONCE A MONTH. FAMILY MEMBERS ON THE OUTSIDE WORRY ABOUT WHEN THEIR INCARCERATED LOVED ONES WILL BE ABLE TO CALL THEM AND IF IT WILL BE AT A TIME THAT THEY CAN TALK. IF THEY MISS THE CALL, THEY MAY NOT HEAR FROM THEIR LOVED ONE AGAIN FOR SEVERAL DAYS.
- **IT EXACERBATES MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES.** INCIDENTS OF SELF-HARM AND SUICIDE ARE MUCH MORE PREVALENT IN PRISON THAN IN THE COMMUNITY. IT IS COMMON FOR INCARCERATED PEOPLE TO GO DAYS WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO MAKE A PHONE CALL OR USE THE KIOSK TO SEND AND RECEIVE EMAILS, WORSENING FEELINGS OF LONELINESS AND EXACERBATING MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES. WHEN THEY CAN GET TO A PHONE OR KIOSK, THEIR TIME IS OFTEN LIMITED TO ONLY 15 MINUTES.

THE #PHONEHOMENY ACT WILL ADDRESS THESE PROBLEMS BY:

- **ALLOWING INCARCERATED PEOPLE TO MAKE PHONE CALLS FROM THEIR CELLS ON THEIR TABLETS. A PHONE APP WITH 24-HOUR ACCESS WILL BE ACTIVATED ON THE TABLETS ALREADY PROVIDED TO EVERY PERSON INCARCERATED IN NYS PRISONS.**
- **PROHIBITING DOCCS FROM WITHHOLDING COMMUNICATION AS A PUNISHMENT. ACCESS TO PHONE CALLS AND EMAILS WILL BE TREATED AS A RIGHT FOR INCARCERATED PEOPLE, NOT A PRIVILEGE THAT CAN BE REVOKED IN RESPONSE TO A DISCIPLINARY TICKET.**
- **EXPANDING THE CIRCLE OF SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES. INCARCERATED PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO CALL ANY PHONE NUMBER WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL, INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL NUMBERS, UNLESS THE PHONE NUMBER IS ON THEIR NEGATIVE CORRESPONDENCE LIST. EACH INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL WILL BE GIVEN AT LEAST ONE OPPORTUNITY EACH DAY TO ACCESS THE KIOSKS OR ANY OTHER TECHNOLOGY THAT MAY BE REQUIRED FOR INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS TO BE ABLE TO SEND ELECTRONIC MESSAGES TO THEIR LOVED ONES.**
- **PROVIDING THE OPTION FOR INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN ACCOUNTS FOR THE PREPAID PHONE SYSTEM. THIS WILL ALLOW THEM TO MAKE CALLS TO THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE IF SOME OF THEIR LOVED ONES CANNOT AFFORD THE CALLS OR DO NOT KNOW HOW TO SET UP THEIR OWN ACCOUNTS.**

TO GET INVOLVED, CONTACT JASMINE AT

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