

Statement for the Record from Representative Gus M. Bilirakis

Energy and Commerce Committee

Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

Oversight of the Federal Communications Committee

November 17, 2015

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I would like to register my disappointment in your October 22 order limiting the ability for jails to collect commissions on inmate phone calls. We've exchanged letters on this issue this year, and law enforcement officials in my district, like Sherriff Chris Nocco from Pasco County, continually inform me how important these fees are to their operations.

Services like GED programs, parenting classes and industry certification training programs are solely funded by these fees, and now are at risk of termination.

While it's on questionable legal grounds that the FCC can even regulate intrastate rates charged by payphone service providers in the first place, the practical result of this order will cap rates in aggregate so that revenues won't cover expenses at all.

Reintegration services will disappear, and that's a shame.

Thank you and I yield back.

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