

# MINNESOTA FAMILIES ON THE COST OF PRISON COMMUNICATIONS



*"Video calls and e-messaging have been a lifeline for me and my incarcerated loved one, allowing us to stay connected and maintain a sense of normalcy despite the physical distance. Access to free video calls and e-messaging would be a game-changer for families like mine, providing a vital link to loved ones and helping to alleviate the emotional toll of incarceration."* - **Lorenzo Heard, Formerly Incarcerated with a Loved One inside**

*"Having my mom put money on my phone account was a constant financial strain. I had at that time 2 young kids and was pregnant with my daughter. Sometimes I wouldn't be able to see them because she didn't have the time to put money on my account because she was busy with the kids. It's so important for people to have that connection and communication with their families and loved ones, not having the money to fund an account shouldn't impact that."* - **Brittany Seaver, Formerly Incarcerated Mother**

*"Seeing my child's smile shouldn't cost me 2 weeks worth of prison pay. One shouldn't have to choose between paying for a bar of soap to stay clean or paying for that video call to see my child's face. Video calls are important for me and my son. It supports both of our mental health."* - **Anonymous, currently incarcerated individual**

*"The exorbitant cost of video calls and e-messaging has placed an immense burden on our family who is already struggling. These costs disproportionately impacted low-income communities and communities of color, further perpetuating cycles of harm. Maintaining connections during incarceration is not a need, it is a necessity."* - **Tierre Coleman, formerly incarcerated**

*"Being able to see my husband on video calls makes the distance and time a lil less painful. Laughing together and seeing each other's face when we do, nurtures our relationship."* - **Alissa Washington, Wife of an Incarcerated Loved One**

## HELP CONNECT FAMILIES