



1135 PROFESSIONAL COURT | HAGERSTOWN, MD 21740-5853

PHONE: 301.790.3930 | FAX: 301.790.2941

June 11, 2019

The American Jail Association supports inmate calling bill

Today, the American Jail Association (AJA) expressed its support for the Martha Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act of 2019 in a letter to Chairman Senator Roger Wicker and Ranking Member Senator Maria Cantwell of the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

The bill, sponsored by Senator Tammy Duckworth of Illinois, does not provide a prescriptive solution, but rather allows for the Federal Communications Commission to go through its rulemaking process, considering the needs of stakeholders and putting into place a solution that will serve the needs of all involved.

Since the beginning of the association's involvement in this issue, AJA has come to the table seeking to present decision-makers in Washington, D.C. with the information necessary to understand the uniqueness of each jail throughout the country and its operations and budget constraints. The association recognizes the critical role regular communications between inmates and their families plays in helping inmates transition back to their communities and how making that communication more accessible can help achieve those goals. At the same time, the needs of the facilities must be taken into account to facilitate those systems. In addition, telephone, video, and other communications also increase the safety of those who work in jails, including AJA's members.

The leadership of AJA looks forward to working with Congress to successfully pass this bill.

The American Jail Association is a national, nonprofit organization headquartered in Maryland that supports the 70,000 professionals who work in and operate our Nation's jails. It is the only national association that focuses exclusively on issues specific to the operations of local correctional facilities. AJA achieves its mission through publishing, technical assistance, professional certification programs, national and regional training academies, and the Annual Conference & Jail Expo.