



Press Release

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MMTC APPLAUDS FCC ACTIONS TO REFORM THE HIGH COST OF INMATE CALLING

WASHINGTON, D.C. (October 17, 2014): The Minority Media and Telecommunications Council (MMTC) applauds today's FCC decision to expand upon its reforms of the high cost of phone calls for incarcerated individuals.

Last year, MMTC, along with other consumer and civil rights organizations, endorsed the 2003 Wright Petition seeking FCC action to proscribe excessive inmate calling rates. We applauded the Commission then for capping the rates of interstate inmate calling rates, and laud today's efforts to adopt a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that seeks additional comment on further ways to constrain and ultimately eliminate predatory costs associated with inmate calling services.

MMTC particularly recognizes FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn's pioneering work to embrace the mission of community heroine Martha White, which initiated the FCC's inquiry into this predatory issue. Commissioner Clyburn's perseverance as a steadfast champion of this cause deserves the greatest respect from MMTC, the civil rights community, the loved ones of incarcerated individuals, and the inmates themselves. We also praise her fellow Commissioners, Chairman Wheeler and Commissioners Rosenworcel, Pai, and O'Rielly, for making the NPRM release one of unanimous agreement at today's Commission meeting.

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About MMTC:

The Minority Media and Telecommunications Council (MMTC) is a non-partisan, national nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and preserving equal opportunity and civil rights in the mass media, telecommunications and broadband industries, and closing the digital divide. MMTC is generally recognized as the nation's leading advocate for minority advancement in communications.