



NATIONAL  
**FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®**

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309 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N. E.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20002  
PHONE 202-547-8189 • FAX 202-547-8190

**CHUCK CANTERBURY**  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

**JAMES O. PASCO, JR.**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

9 July 2009

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hutchison,

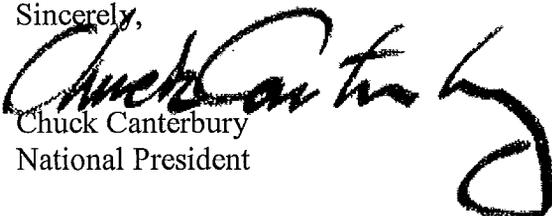
I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our support for S. 251, the "Safe Prisons Communications Act."

The usage of illegally obtained cell phones by inmates has become a growing threat to public safety in recent years. These phones can be used to steal credit card information and engage in identity theft, but the devices have also been used for violence. Recently, it was revealed that prisoners on Texas death row were making threatening calls to the families of their victims, prosecutors, and elected officials. In 2007, a Baltimore drug dealer used an illegally obtained cell phone to orchestrate the death of a witness from the city jail. The criminal element has and will continue to go to extremes to smuggle these phones into the prison system. New technologies are being developed to detect and locate these cell phones; however the only way to stop the phone calls is jamming the signal.

Regrettably, prisons are barred from jamming cell phones under the Federal Communications Act. Your legislation addresses this problem head on by allowing State and Federal correctional facilities to petition the FCC for a waiver allowing the jamming of cell phone signals within the boundaries of the prison.

On behalf of the more than 327,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I want to thank you for your hard work on this bill and I look forward to working with you to get it passed. If I can be of any additional help to you, please feel free to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in my Washington office.

Sincerely,

  
Chuck Canterbury  
National President

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