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ALLIANCE FOR SAFE COMMUNITIES' TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 5350

Alliance for Safe Communities opposes passage of H 5330

2024 saw a 50 % increase in criminal charges brought against inmates at the Bristol County House of Corrections.

The flow of drugs within the prison had a direct correlation to the violent criminal activity. This correlation existed without the new law recently passed allowing inmates to make unlimited free phone calls.

The new law passed in Massachusetts has exacerbated this increase of criminal activity.

What type of criminal activity?

- 1.Assaults whether inmate on inmate or staff assaults.**
- 2.Drug related cases, both introduction and possession.**
- 3.Witness intimidation**
- 4.Violating restraining orders**
- 5.Organized Crime getting drugs from outside/ inside the prison.**

There is no estimation of cost regarding the execution of this legislation if passed within the body of the bill. Does an estimate exist that is not within the content of this bill?

Massachusetts prison system allowing for unlimited phone calls for inmates has incurred an estimated cost of \$1.5 million dollars per year. This cost is directly impacted upon the taxpayers.

Hiring analysts to listen in on the phone calls or read text messages is not without cost. These measures are necessary to thwart and cut back on the increased crime resulting from unlimited free phone use.

Added staffing and trained dogs all add additional costs to the baseline.

Limited phone use is a necessity. Unlimited phone use is a burden to the Correction Facilities and the taxpayer's bottom line.

Respectfully, Carolyn Medeiros Executive Director Alliance for Safe Communities

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[**NBC 10 I-Team: Inmate crimes rise in Massachusetts following free, unlimited phone calls**](#)