

FOR JUSTICE



FOR SAFETY

Lt. Osvaldo Albarati

EOW 2/26/13

February 24, 2025

**Honorable Chuck Grassley
States Senator
Senate Office Building**

**United
135 Hart
Washington D.C. 20510**

Dear Senator Grassley,

On February 26, 2013, Lt. Osvaldo Albarati, a Federal Correctional Officer, was on his way home from work at MDC Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, when he was brutally murdered by a gang hit. Lt. Albarati was my husband and the father of my children, and we still feel the pain of his loss very deeply today.

The reason that my husband was murdered was because he had confiscated contraband cell phones from inmates, thus disrupting their illegal activities which they were carrying out from within the prison walls. The call that ordered the hit on my husband was made from within the walls of Guaynabo and was made using one of these contraband phones.

It is a well-known fact that these contraband cell phones are used by inmates to conduct all sorts of nefarious business dealings from inside prisons to include drug trafficking, intimidation, assaults, and even murder. It is also a fact that in recent years there has been an increase in the number of cell phones smuggled into prisons, often by very sophisticated means such as drones. Yet, despite all of this, inmates discovered with cell phones are charged only with a misdemeanor, and often they go unpunished completely. To me, my family, and to all Federal Corrections Officers this is not acceptable.

It is the purpose of my letter to offer my strong support for the Lt. Osvaldo Albarati Stopping Prison Contraband Act which you are planning to introduce into the 119th

Congress. The fact that this bill now makes it a felony instead of a misdemeanor is something that is not only providing some justice for my husband's sacrifice, but also provides just and proper consequences for a crime that clearly rises to the level of a felony. Once passed, it is also imperative that the administrators of the Federal Bureau of Prisons follow through with implementing these consequences. The passage of this bill can only be seen as an increase in safety for both corrections officers and inmates alike. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Albarati

Helen Andujar Albarati

Wife of fallen Federal Corrections Officer Osvaldo Albarati.