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COUNCIL OF PRISON
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COUNCIL OF PRISON LOCALS 33
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AFL-CIO

The Council of Prison Locals 33 supports the Lt. Osvaldo Albarati Stopping Prison Contraband Act. This bipartisan legislation is a crucial step towards enhancing the safety and security of our correctional facilities and the communities surrounding them.

Prison contraband poses significant risks, not only to inmates but also to correctional staff and the general public. The Lieutenant Osvaldo Albarati Act addresses these issues by implementing measures that will strengthen the prevention of contraband smuggling into prisons.

This legislation seeks to increase penalties for federal inmates who are found in possession of a cellphone. When inmates have access to cellphones they can conduct illegal activities, orchestrate criminal operations, harass victims, or threaten witnesses from within the confines of prison walls. A cell phone in a prison can most certainly be a deadly weapon.

Moreover, this legislation honors the legacy of Lieutenant Osvaldo Albarati, who was tragically murdered after he confiscated cell phones in a federal prison. Inmates then used another contraband cell phone to orchestrate an attack on him. His dedication to his career and public safety serves as an inspiration for all of us.

Increasing penalties for inmates and making the introduction of a cellphone a felony charge, we are sending a clear message that such behavior will not be tolerated. Strengthening these consequences serves as a deterrent to inmates and helps correctional officers maintain the safety and integrity of our institutions.

We must ensure that prisons remain secure environments and this legislation is a necessary step to achieve that goal. Therefore, I stand in strong support of this legislative measure and urge its swift passage.

Brandy Moore White

Brandy Moore White
National President
National Council of Prison Locals 33



"Protecting those that protect America."

FOR JUSTICE



FOR SAFETY

Jose Rivera Osvaldo Albarati Eric Williams

Dear Legislators:

I am writing to you today as the widow of Lieutenant Osvaldo Albarati, a fallen corrections officer who was brutally murdered in 2013. His death was a direct result of contraband cell phones in our prison system, and I urge you to take immediate action to support the Lieutenant Osvaldo Albarati Stopping Prison Contraband Act (S. 5284).

This bipartisan legislation, which has already passed the Senate unanimously, would make the smuggling of contraband cell phones into federal prisons a felony offense. This is a critical step towards preventing further tragedies like the one my family has endured.

When Osvaldo was killed, our lives were shattered. Our young son and daughters lost their father, and I lost my husband. The pain of that day will stay with us forever. But Osvaldo's death was not just a personal tragedy – it was a stark reminder of the dangers posed by contraband cell phones in our prisons.

These devices allow inmates to continue their criminal activities uninterrupted, directing illegal operations and orchestrating violence from behind bars. In Osvaldo's case, his murder was planned and ordered by gang members using a contraband cell phone from within the prison walls. The threat posed by contraband cell phones in our prisons cannot be overstated. The Federal Bureau of Prisons has seen a surge in cell phone activity, enabling inmates to carry on their criminal enterprises as if prison walls did not exist. This is a threat not just to corrections officers like Osvaldo, but to public safety as a whole.

The Lieutenant Osvaldo Albarati Stopping Prison Contraband Act is a crucial measure to address this problem. By making the smuggling of contraband cell phones a felony, we can deter this illegal activity and hold those responsible accountable.

FOR JUSTICE



FOR SAFETY

I respectfully but urgently ask that you support this legislation and vote to make it law. My husband gave his life in service to our country, and his

sacrifice should not be in vain. Please help ensure that no other family has to endure the pain we have faced.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Helen Albarati

Yours truly,

Helen Albarati

Helen Andujar Albarati

Wife of fallen Federal Officer Lt. Osvaldo Albarati



Jason Anderson
District 7 NVP

Dr. Everett B. Kelley
National President

Eric Bunn Sr.
National Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. Kendrick B. Roberson
NVP for Women & Fair Practices

November 20, 2024

The Honorable James D. Jordan
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Representative Nadler,

On behalf of the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO (AFGE), which represents more than 700,000 federal and District of Columbia government employees in more than 70 federal agencies, including 30,000 federal law enforcement officers, I write to urge you to support and take action, "Lieutenant Osvaldo Albarati Stopping Prison Contraband Act." S.5284, **which has already passed the Senate unanimously** passed advance S. 5284, the "Lieutenant Osvaldo Albarati Stopping Prison Contraband Act" introduced by Senator Jon Ossoff (D-GA) and Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) to crack down on the smuggling of contraband cell phones into federal prisons by upgrading the charge for such smuggling from a misdemeanor offense to a felony.

The bill is named after Lieutenant Osvaldo Albarati, a correctional officer at Metropolitan Detention Center Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, who broke up a contraband smuggling group in prison. The group organized a deadly retaliation against Albarati. He was shot and killed in 2013 by a group of gunmen on the highway.

Inmates with access to cellphones can and do coordinate criminal activities both inside and outside prison walls, including drug trafficking, extortion, and violence. These devices facilitate communication with criminal networks, allowing inmates to continue engaging in illegal enterprises from behind bars. By implementing tougher sentencing for inmates caught with cell phones, we can send a clear message that such misconduct will not be tolerated and will be punished to the fullest extent of the law.



Jason Anderson
District 7 NVP

Dr. Everett B. Kelley
National President

Eric Bunn Sr.
National Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. Kendrick B. Roberson
NVP for Women & Fair Practices

AFGE urges you to support and advance S. 5284, the "Lieutenant Osvaldo Albarati Stopping Prison Contraband Act." For questions or more information please contact, Fiona Kohrman at fiona.kohrman@afge.org, or NVP Jason Anderson at jason.anderson@afge.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jason Anderson".

Jason Anderson
National Vice President
AFGE District 7



Jason Anderson
District 7 NVP

Dr. Everett B. Kelley
National President

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Dr. Kendrick B. Roberson
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November 20, 2024

The Honorable J. Michael Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem S. Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker and Representative Jeffries,

On behalf of the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO (AFGE), which represents more than 700,000 federal and District of Columbia government employees in more than 70 federal agencies, including 30,000 federal law enforcement officers, I write to urge you to support and take action, "Lieutenant Osvaldo Albarati Stopping Prison Contraband Act." S.5284, **which has already passed the Senate unanimously** passed advance S. 5284, the "Lieutenant Osvaldo Albarati Stopping Prison Contraband Act" introduced by Senator Jon Ossoff (D-GA) and Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) to crack down on the smuggling of contraband cell phones into federal prisons by upgrading the charge for such smuggling from a misdemeanor offense to a felony.

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Jason Anderson
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AFGE District 7