

From:

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**NIKKI R. HALEY**

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**Haley, Governors Ask FCC To Change Contraband Cellphone Regulations**

*"States must have the flexibility and authority to eradicate this threat to the public safety in our states"*

**COLUMBIA, S.C** – Governor Nikki Haley and fellow governors from across the country, today signed a letter to Federal Communications Commission Chairman Thomas Wheeler requesting they reevaluate regulations regarding contraband cellphones in prisons. In a letter to Chairman Wheeler, the governors said, "Correctional officers across the country work in an environment many will never see or fully understand in terms of threats to staff and public safety. Contraband cellphones in the hands of prisoners dramatically increase these threats to witnesses, the public, the officers, their families, and even other prisoners."

A copy of the governors' letter is available [here](#).

Last month, during a FCC field hearing, held in Columbia with FCC Commissioner Ajit Pai, Governor Haley asked that cellphone jamming restrictions be lifted and that states be granted permission to use the blocking technology. The governor said, "This is something that has a solution to it. Allow us to jam our prisons ... Something has to change."

Gov. Haley continued, "We need the FCC to allow us to streamline processes so that we can start to do that. There are a lot of things that need to be done, this is a fixable problem. In corrections, a lot of times, I don't have fixable problems but this one is a fixable problem but it requires the FCC, it requires Congress, and it requires the Telecom industry to step up."

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