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**Date:** 4/4/2016 5:27:27 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Op-Ed: Governor Haley & Comm Pai

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Sounds like the Haley – Pai op-ed us running in tomorrow's USA Today

-- Brendan  
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**From:** Brendan Carr  
**Sent:** Friday, April 01, 2016 6:40 PM  
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**Subject:** Fw: Op-Ed: Governor Haley & Comm Pai

Great news!! good work reaching out to them.

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**From:** Ajit Pai <[Ajit.Pai@fcc.gov](mailto:Ajit.Pai@fcc.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 1, 2016 6:36 PM  
**To:** Brendan Carr  
**Cc:** Matthew Berry; Nicholas Degani  
**Subject:** Fw: Op-Ed: Governor Haley & Comm Pai

Excellent news!

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**From:** Lawrence, Jill <[jlawrence@usatoday.com](mailto:jlawrence@usatoday.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 1, 2016 6:29 PM  
**To:** Ajit Pai  
**Cc:** Mastio, David  
**Subject:** Re: Op-Ed: Governor Haley & Comm Pai

Ajit -- We'll take this and run it next week. Enjoy your weekend.

**Jill Lawrence**  
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**From:** Ajit Pai <[Ajit.Pai@fcc.gov](mailto:Ajit.Pai@fcc.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 31, 2016 4:00 PM  
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**Subject:** Op-Ed: Governor Haley & Comm Pai

Attached and pasted below is an op-ed submission by South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley and FCC Commissioner Ajit Pai.

The article discusses the growing public safety threat posed by inmates' use of contraband cellphones. These phones are now flooding into our nations prisons and jails, and they are being used to victimize innocent members of the public. This op-ed identifies the problem and talks about steps that can and should be taken to help law enforcement

combat this threat.

We are submitting this as an exclusive to USA Today. But because we are holding a field hearing on this issue next week, we will need a decision from USA Today by close of business this Friday, April 1st.

Thank you!

-- Ajit

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### *Bars Behind Bars: The Problem of Contraband Cellphones*

by Governor Nikki Haley and Ajit Pai

Before dawn on March 5, 2010, a gunman kicked in the front door of Captain Robert Johnson's home and shot him six times in the stomach and chest.

It was a hit. And it was ordered because Captain Johnson was too good at his job. He was an officer at Lee Correctional Institution in Bishopville, South Carolina. He was in charge of confiscating contraband that worked its way into the prison—including cellphones. Inmates were upset that Captain Johnson repeatedly foiled their efforts to smuggle in cellphones. So, ironically, they used one to order the hit.

Thankfully, after enduring over a dozen surgeries and receiving over 60 units of blood, Captain Johnson survived. But in the six years since that attack, the public safety threats posed by contraband cellphones have only gotten worse.

Contraband cellphones are now flooding into our nation's jails and prisons. They are flown into institutions via drones. They are thrown over prison fences stuffed into everything from footballs to dead cats. They are smuggled into facilities inside everything from underwear to legal papers. They are being used to run drug operations, direct gang activity, and victimize innocent members of the public. In South Carolina alone, corrections officials confiscated over 4,000 contraband cellphones and related accessories in 2015.

The problem reaches far beyond the Palmetto State. For example, the wife of one Georgia prisoner received a text demanding \$1,000 from inmates in the same prison as her husband. When she couldn't gather the money, she was texted an image of her husband with burns, broken fingers, and the word "RAT" carved into his forehead.

In North Carolina, an inmate used a cellphone to order gang members to kidnap the father of the prosecutor that put him behind bars. The inmate used the phone to orchestrate the abduction, exchanging 123 calls and text messages with the kidnappers. Fortunately, the FBI was able to rescue the victim before it was too late.

The problem with contraband cellphones extends beyond violent crime. Inmates are using them to run phone scams and con innocent members of the public out of their hard-earned money. In one common scheme, inmates pretend to be a law enforcement official. They call someone and claim that he or she owes a large fine for failing to appear for jury duty. Victims who believe the hoax are told to purchase prepaid debit cards and to provide the caller with the account numbers. Inmates then transfer the money into their own accounts.

One reason we imprison criminals is to incapacitate them—that is, to prevent them from committing additional crimes. But with contraband cellphones, prisons have become a base of operations for criminal enterprise.

The time has come to end this crime wave. Inmates' use of contraband cellphones has to stop.

The bad news is that it's just not possible for corrections officers to keep each and every cellphone out of prisons. Contraband has always made its way in, and it always will.

The good news is that there are steps we can take to help law enforcement combat this problem. For instance, South Carolina has been leading the fight against contraband cellphones, deploying technologies designed to identify contraband phones and prevent inmates from successfully placing calls.

But there is much more that can and should be done. That's where the Federal Communications Commission, where one of us works, comes into play. The FCC is the U.S. government agency that regulates the nation's airwaves, including the spectrum that cellphones use. In 2013, the FCC teed up technological solutions and regulatory reforms that could make it easier for law enforcement to prevent the use of contraband cellphones. To date, however, the FCC has not enacted any of those reforms.

So on April 6, we will be holding a field hearing on contraband cellphones in Columbia, South Carolina. We are pleased that Captain Johnson will be there to tell his story.

We hope this field hearing will help us find solutions for law enforcement and build the foundation for a strong FCC response. We need to make sure that the long arm of the law reaches behind prison walls. And we intend to do everything we can to ensure that happens.

*Nikki Haley is the Governor of South Carolina. Ajit Pai is a Commissioner at the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, DC.*