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Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

April 11, 2002

Office of the Secretary  
Federal Trade Commission, Room 159  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20580

**RE: Telemarketing Rulemaking Comment – FTC File R411001**

Federal Trade Commission:

Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) is pleased to provide comment on the above mentioned rule as it concerns inmate access to telephones.

CCA houses and cares for more than 54,000 inmates for federal, state and local governments in 63 facilities throughout 21 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. This makes CCA the sixth largest corrections system in the country, just behind Texas, California, the Federal Bureau of Prisons, New York, and Florida.

As a preface, in none of our facilities does CCA employ inmates in a for profit capacity; in many of our facilities either private firms or our government agency customers provide the training and work opportunities. The importance of these inmate jobs can not be over estimated. I say this from the perspective of my 31 years as a corrections professional, having served in numerous positions including warden, Deputy Director and then Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and now as Chief Operating Officer of CCA.

Let me highlight three points. First, inmate jobs are vital to helping keep prisons safe and secure and offering meaningful educational and vocational training to aid in successful re-entry. Second, an FTC action in this area is unnecessary. Third, any regulation in this area should only be contemplated with the full input of corrections professionals.

*Inmate jobs are vital to helping keep prisons safe and secure and offering meaningful educational and vocational training to aid in successful re-entry.*

The importance of inmate jobs in maintaining safe and secure state and federal prisons for the 370,000 staff and 1,350,000 inmates is often overlooked.

No data or research can fully convey the differences between prisons where inmate jobs provide inmates incentives to behave well and attend treatment and academic programs,

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and prisons where no such jobs exist and no such incentives are available. The stark differences are felt immediately by staff and administrators. In prisons with inmate jobs, there is less tension, fewer disturbances, and fewer incidents of violence. There is better attendance in treatment, academic and vocational classes. There is a far better opportunity for "rehabilitation", therefore increasing the probability that inmates when released will not commit new crimes.

As the FTC notes, a ban would only directly effect a very small number of inmates. None-the-less, such a ban would effect a far larger number of inmate jobs in virtually every prison system. Prison administrators are inherently cautious professionals. They would regard an FTC ban on telemarketing jobs as a possible threat to inmate jobs that have even a remote connection to the issues that concern the FTC. For this reason, such FTC action would reverberate through far more inmate jobs than intended, and negatively impact more training and work opportunities essential to ensuring safety and security.

FTC action in this area is unnecessary.

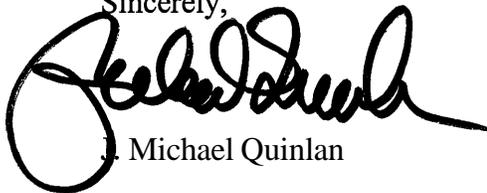
CCA has a somewhat unique perspective regarding the state regulatory environment and inmates. Because CCA houses inmates from 21 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, the statutory and administrative regulatory environments concerning inmates in these states are important to CCA. Each year in virtually every state there are numerous new regulations and policies regarding inmate incarceration. As the FTC has acknowledged, several states have proactively regulated inmate access to telephones. It is clear to CCA that state legislatures and Departments of Corrections are proactive and responsive to the expressed concerns of taxpayers and consumers.

Regulation should only be contemplated with the full input of corrections professionals.

The FTC acknowledges the need for greater input on this issue. CCA believes this input will demonstrate there is insufficient cause for the FTC to ban or regulate inmate telemarketing. However, should the FTC determine otherwise, CCA encourages that any action should be contemplated only with the benefit of the full participation of corrections' professionals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



J. Michael Quinlan