

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 827

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to express support for the enactment of H.R. 1954, the Cellphone Jamming Reform Act of 2019.

WHEREAS, contraband cell phones have become a major problem in correctional facilities across Tennessee and the nation, with 1,709 contraband cellphones confiscated in Tennessee prisons in 2018 and thousands more in Federal Bureau of Prisons facilities nationwide; and

WHEREAS, contraband cellphones endanger public safety and allow criminals to continue their life of crime; inmates have reportedly used contraband cellphones to continue to engage in illegal activities behind bars, including drug operations, sex trafficking, extortion, and organizing escapes; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Congressman David Kustoff has introduced H.R. 1954, the Cellphone Jamming Reform Act of 2019, to address the use of contraband cell phones in state and federal correctional facilities; and

WHEREAS, the bill would allow state and federal prisons to use localized jamming technology to interfere with cellphone signals within the housing facilities of their inmates, choosing from a broad category of jamming technology, such as surgical jamming technology, beacon technology, or any future technology that would curb or prevent the use of contraband cellphones inside a prison facility; and

WHEREAS, it is vitally important to the people of Tennessee that this legislation be passed and enacted as soon as possible to protect the public at large; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we strongly support H.R. 1954, the Cellphone Jamming Reform Act of 2019, and urge its passage by the 116th United States Congress.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be prepared and transmitted to the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, and each member of Tennessee's delegation to the United States Congress.