

ORIGINAL

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To: Study on Fair Rates (No. 980000A-SP)
Division of Records and Reporting
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee FL 32399-0850

From: Carolyn J. Gaines
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Carolyn J. Gaines

My Sprint telephone bill this month told me that if a person is unable to attend the public hearing on Monday, Sept. 21, at the Florida Public Service Commission's Conference Center, they could mail a written comment to this address. I am unable to attend that hearing.

I wish to state that I feel it is grossly unfair for the telephone company to add a charge to every bill for long distance access when a customer must refrain from making long distance calls, except in the utmost urgency, because of budget restraints. For the last two or three years I have curtailed my long-distance calls to no more than five or six in the whole year, and those very short, because my budget is strained to the limit already. If I am not able to make long distance calls, it does not seem fair that I am required to pay an access charge every month. It would be fair for me to be charged an access fee on the very few months when I have had to make a long-distance call.

I am 81 years old. I need a basic telephone in my apartment because I live alone and might need to call the doctor at any time. Also I have to have a

ACI portable phone to which I forward calls from my home telephone every day
AFA because I go to a nursing home every morning to stay with my sister who is
APP a patient there. I need this basic telephone service urgently, but outside
CAF of the forwarding charge of \$3.00 a month, I do not have any kind of extra
CMU services on my telephone. The FCC Access charge of \$3.00 makes a difference
CTR to me when my budget is so strained already.

EAG
LEG I am not the only person, particularly among the older people, who counts
LIN every penny in just getting by on a limited income.

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