FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 5, 2019

Contact: Office of Communications

Phone: (601) 359-5289, 359-5608, 359-5689

E-mail: MDOCOfficeofCommunications@mdoc.state.ms.us

Commissioner Hall among corrections leaders backing federal cellphone jamming legislation

Jackson — Commissioner Pelicia E. Hall is among the leaders of state corrections agencies supporting legislation before Congress to allow state and federal correctional facilities to use cellphone jamming systems.

Republican U.S. Senators Tom Cotton of Arkansas and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina introduced the Cellphone Jamming Reform Act in their respective body last week. Republican U.S. Reps. David Kustoff of Tennessee and William Timmons of South Carolina introduced companion legislation on the House side.

"This is a step in the right direction," Commissioner Hall said. "It is vitally important that we address the cellphone epidemic in state prisons. There is more than enough clear and convincing evidence that cellphones are a threat to public safety."

The Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA) has sent a letter to Sen. Cotton endorsing the bill. Commissioner Hall is an active member of the peer group and has been among the ASCA members working with CTIA, which represents the country's wireless communications industry, to find solutions to contraband cell phones.