

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 1805

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS

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Hearing Date: April 7, 2021 8:00 AM

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Deborah Cardenas

Self, Background Investigator for Federal Security Clearances

San Antonio, TX

Good Afternoon,

My husband is serving a 40 year mandatory minimum sentence for a needless tragedy due to drug addiction when he was a young man. A tragedy that he takes full responsibility for though it was not the intention and he had no prior criminal record. He has been in prison now 23 years. Good time and work time equal over 50 years. He has completed all parole requirements even though he does not qualify for parole. He is in the Seminary program for a BA in Biblical Studies to become a prison pastor, which will not change if he is granted parole for good behavior. He is dedicating the rest of his life to ministering to inmates. I have a BS In Criminal Justice and a Master in Psychology from a Christian University. I have Top Security Clearance and was vetted extensively before being granted that clearance, which means my husband was vetted as well. My father Herb Munson is a retired Evangelical pastor. My brother's family business, Saddleback Leather Company is a Christian business in Fort Worth, TX whose whole mission is to raise funds for charity. My entire family supports my husband. My father mentors my husband and calls him son. I say all this because in a Republican state as TX, every single Biblical foundation that I was brought up on and the accomplishments that I have achieved would not have been possible without the love and encouragement from God, my husband and family. This alone should make everyone ponder that there are good men and women in prison who have served decades that are deserving of a second chance to become productive citizens. The entire Gospel of Jesus Christ is built on faith and GRACE and allowing people to be reborn. My husband has been reborn as has countless men and women in the Texas prison system. My husband almost died of COVID-19 this past summer. Though many officers, staff and inmates have died and are still dying of COVID-19. Texas does not have the funds to take care of the aging population in Texas prisons that all these life sentences handed down in the 90s created. I pray that common sense and grace will prevail during the 2021 Texas Legislation and that this bill will be granted so that my husband can come home to me and our children and grandchildren. Thank you for taking the time to consider this piece of important legislation, it is what I and thousands of family members of loved ones in prison have been praying for....for years. God Bless. Deborah

Cara Vann

LWPS

Houston, TX

I oppose HB 1805. Too many violent felons on this list for early parole! These are not victimless criminals and should not be on the streets of Texas or anywhere else in our country... Thousands of murderers and rapists amongst others roaming free to terrify their victims and their families and all innocent people Is a disservice to every law abiding citizen!! Please oppose house bill 1805!

Rania Mankarious, Mrs.

Crime Stoppers of Houston

Houston, TX

I am opposed to this legislation. Between the push to empty the prisons and the push to no longer hold violent felons pre-trial (thanks to Felony Bond Reform), we are very concerned for the safety of our city, county and State. Reasonable minds can assume that this mass release will negatively impact crime. We also know courts are backlogged and suspects are routinely getting arrested and released. Please, we urge you - use your seats for the betterment of society. HB 1805 does not do this - we

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oppose it.

Lauren Byrne

Law Office

Houston, TX

TDC is a revolving door. Only on the most violent of offenses must a person serve at least half of their sentence before parole eligibility. often these sentences are determined by juries in our state. We should place victims of violent crime above a rush to release the most violent of offenders in our state, and respect the verdicts of the juries made of of Texas who speak for their communities. there is a reason we classify aggravated offenses differently than non-violent offenses, and the amount of tie served should reflect that.

Shawn Savarino

Self

Houston, TX

I OPPOSE this bill!! Please do NOT release more criminals on our streets!

Kathryn Hachigan

Self-retired

Houston, TX

I am strongly opposed to HB 1805. Judges have sentenced these people to a term and it should be fulfilled. Crime is already increasing across the great state of TX.

Angela Paschall

Self

Houston, TX

Please explain to me why releasing criminals is ever a good idea?  
Who is put in harms way? I am, my kids are.  
Those are the people you as elected officials MUST think about.

Mary Finck

Self - Real Estate Agent

Houston, TX

I oppose HB 1805! I believe that inmates are already being released at rates that are not safe for law abiding citizens! If this passes, HB 1805 will immediately allow over 23,000 violent offenders to be IMMEDIATELY ELIGIBLE TO BE RELEASED FROM PRISON!!!

- 5,753 murderers
- Over 7,000 sex offenders
- 3,595 Aggravated Assault and Human Trafficking offenders
- 5,052 offenders convicted of Robbery related offenses
- Bottom Line: Current statutes mandate violent offenders (3g) are required to serve half of their sentence without the ability to accrue good time credits to expedite parole eligibility. HB 1805 changes the statute retroactively. I oppose this bill!

Jennifer Nelub

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self

Cypress, TX

I oppose HB 1805!

Justine Morton

Self

Cypress, TX

Against bill 1805

Gaye French

Self/homemaker

Humble, TX

I oppose HB 1805 in Texas

Gayle Swearer

Self

Houston, TX

Please do not pass this Bill. Violent crime is on the rise. Paroled felons are murdering. Criminals are being released too soon

Jean Godschalk, Mrs.

Self

Houston, TX

I strongly oppose HB1805

Thomas Gottschalk

Self - Engineer

Houston, TX

I am concerned that the passage of this bill may allow many violent offenders to be quickly released and put back into situations where they can repeat the very same offenses for which they've been incarcerated. Am a big believer in 2nd chances, but also want to provide for the safety of our children.

Amanda Dawson

Self

Houston, TX

I OPPOSE HB 1805

Jennifer Hohman

Self

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Houston, TX

Not ok to let the violent offenders out to potentially harm the public AGAIN!

Carolyn Garofalo

ABC

Houston, TX

Do not pass this bill!!!!

Karen Crowder, Ms

Self

Flower Mound, TX

I SUPPORT HB 1805 sponsored by Mr. Moody. The good conduct bill would allow inmates of TDCJ to be eligible for parole a little earlier than current regulations allow. It does not guarantee earlier parole eligibility, but does allow an inmate an opportunity based on their own rehabilitative efforts. It offers hope, which is a highly motivating attribute. The cost would be minimal to implement such a program and could possibly reduce the prison population. It is much more cost effective for people to be on community supervision than imprisoned. This bill would allow people to have the chance at becoming productive members of their communities sooner rather than later. Please vote to approve this bill and move it out of Committee and onto the full House. Thank you.

Monique Pappas

Self. Accountant

Houston, TX

Oppose this!!

Sheila Hutchings

self/teacher

Houston, TX

We should give each inmate the legislatures address that thinks this is a good idea.

Sarah Williams

Self

Houston, TX

Oppose

Antoinette Lopez

None

Buda, TX

With the severe over-crowding of our prisons, I think this would be a great step forward to a solution. Especially with extensive sentences that have been handed down in the past for minor drug charges, this would give our TDCJ another tool to release the people that are proving themselves to be rehabilitated. I fully support this in an effort to reduce our crowding and fiscal issues

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with the jails.

Sarma Taylor

sarma

NEW BRAUNFELS, TX

I'm voicing opposition to this bill. Victims have no effective benefit for the time spent in recovering from violent crimes. No to this bill. I vote.

Ashleigh Purvis

Self

Houston, TX

I OPPOSE HB 1805

• If passed, HB 1805 will immediately allow over 23,000 violent offenders to be IMMEDIATELY ELIGIBLE TO BE RELEASED FROM PRISON!!!

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• Over 7,000 sex offenders

• 3,595 Aggravated Assault and Human Trafficking offenders

• 5,052 offenders convicted of Robbery related offenses

• Bottom Line: Current statutes mandate violent offenders (3g) are required to serve half of their sentence without the ability to accrue good time credits to expedite parole eligibility. HB 1805 changes the statute retroactively

Sarah Anderson

Self

Houston, TX

I oppose HB 1805. 100%. Please do not let this go any further.

Tonya Spell

self

Houston, TX

They are in prison for a reason. Just because they are acting right while they are in prison, does not mean they will be that good when released. If they were deemed ineligible for parole before a certain amount of time, that needs to be stuck too. We have too many criminals getting out and committing repeat crimes. Stop the madness.

Ashley Holmsten

Self

Houston, TX

Crime is OUT of Control in Houston. It doesn't matter what part of town you live in anymore. I have personally witnessed a car being broken into and attempted to be stolen and a senior citizen have her purse stolen at my neighborhood Walgreens and Kroger. There was a murder last night where a daughter watched her dad die after being shot to death in front of her. It's not a big leap to assume the shooter is out on bond. They always are. I am scared for my children to grow up in Houston. There have been 100 murders and it's only the first quarter. Crime is committed by criminals out on bond that should NEVER have been released. The Houston Police force will need to be increased by 1000s to handle the stress this will add to an already underfunded and overworked department. Please make decisions with common sense! This should not be a political matter. It's a matter of doing what is right and best for society. Violent Criminals should serve out there terms and never be released early.

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Amy Wisniewski

Self

Houston, TX

Not supportive of bill to award changing parole eligibility

Linda Trinidad

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support hb 1805

Daniel Talamantes

NA

houston, TX

Not allow violent offenders out early for good behavior!

Sheri Skinner

Self. Retired

Houston, TX

Stop releasing criminals into our community. If they did the crime they should do the time.

Lorraine Whiteside

Self

Richmond, TX

N/a

Shelley Mackay

Self

Houston, TX

I oppose this bill!!!!

Casey Rowe

Self

Houston, TX

Strongly oppose!

betty wortham

SELF WARRANTY CLERK

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palestine, TX

I pray this bill will be passed out of committee to be voted on. My son worries about getting out of prison and catching up financially for the time lost while in prison. He has gotten his GED, worked in the building and grounds keeping since being in TDC. We have gone through the appeals process and did have a chance to get some reprieve when the Texas court of criminal appeals sent his case to the trial court for finding of facts. The trial court answered after a year but the lawyer we had hired and paid a year before did not send his rebuttal even though we called and told him it was due in so many days, he never sent it and the Texas criminal court of appeals dismissed my sons case. We had paid a pediatric forensic specialist \$13000 for a medical report that our trial lawyer had never even sought. All this was in vain due to our appeals lawyer's apathy. I pray this passes so my son can get a descent chance to make amends and be a productive member of society. He has lived in a dorm for the last 8 years and I've had the privilege of attending Moms Day with my son for three years until Covid happened. In order to do this, the inmate has to have a spotless conduct record. He is one of many that need parole eligibility. On the outside they can help raise their children, pay taxes , earn an income to help bank roll their retirement funds. I do believe with proper vetting you can make this work and save the State of Texas a great deal of money. Instead of a liability to the state they would become an asset!! Please look at this with an open mind and put yourself in the place of parents, spouses and children that have been separated from loved ones, we beg you to look at this without bias.

Thank you and God bless

Amy Huggins

Self/homemaker

Houston, TX

I am vehemently opposed to HB 1805. Vote No. keep violent felons in jail. The crime rates are soaring in Texas. Protect the law abiding citizens of Texas

Christy Morton

Self

Houston, TX

OPPOSE HB 1805

Natalie Meadlin

self

Boerne, TX

Vote against. This country needs to be tougher on criminals in an effort to deter them from committing future crimes.

Aimee Forman

Self - sales

Houston, TX

I 100% oppose this bill! Letting violent criminals out early will only increase crime as these are repeat offenders. Don't make us more unsafe than the world already is.

Kate Zost

Self

Houston, TX

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I would like to voice my opposition to HB 1805 before Wednesday's vote. If this bill is put through, approximately 23,000 violent felon offenders will be out on parole due to good conduct and retroactively allowing parole eligibility. This includes violent sexual offenders, murders and traffickers, amongst others. As a mother of young children and a lifelong Houstonian, I have watched our city fall apart and crime rise dramatically over the past few years. Where is the voice of the citizens? Where is safety for our families and the most vulnerable, our children? Citizens are fearful, police are no longer plentiful and we won't be seeing new police recruit numbers go up if we continue to allow violent offenders parole before they've served their sentences. Our DA and local officials have taken a soft stance against crime and Houstonians are paying for their incompetence is showing

Jim Hruzek  
Self -CPA  
Houston, TX

I am  
Opposed to this bill.

Rebecca Barbier  
Self  
Houston, TX

This bill will do nothing more than add more violent criminals to our streets. Do not pass this bill.

Nicholas Heinz, Mr.  
Self  
Houston, TX

I oppose HB 1805. This bill will allow 23,000 murderers, rapists, sex traffickers and other dangerous felons to be immediately eligible for parole. Considering crime in Texas, specifically Harris County, is out of control, this Bill would create an even more dangerous community. Please vote "NO" for HB 1805

Geyer Dybesland  
Self  
Houston, TX

Oppose

Suzanne Humphrey  
Self/house mgr.  
Lago Vista, TX

Do not pass this bill! We, the people, are tired of criminals having more rights than we do! Crime is skyrocketing from the lack of consequences for their criminal behaviour! Stop releasing them!!! Clean up our streets and make Houston safe again!!!!

Lina Jackiewicz  
Self  
Houston, TX

Oppose  
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Olga Flores, Retired teacher

Self

San Antonio, TX

My son has been imprisoned for 22 years for a crime that was actually committed by the son of a San Antonio police officer. Texas is a slave state where inmates are not paid for their labor and are not given earned time credit. This bill would give inmates who have had good, behavior to be considered for parole. This, however does not guarantee parole because the parole board is notorious for giving set offs, the reason is always, " the nature of the crime" and they give no guidance as to what the inmate needs to do. They do not consider the inmate's good behavior or what he has accomplished while incarcerated.. My family and I are all in favor of this bill.

Anita Grimes

Self

Houston, TX

I do NOT want this bill passed where murders and other dangerous criminals will be released.

Emily Hodges

Self

Houston, TX

OPPOSE.

Harris County is an example of why this isn't the path forward in criminal justice reform. Build the structure to process and insure people released aren't violent & slipping through the cracks and I will happily vote for this.

Julia Lieck

Self

San Antonio, TX

OPPOSE HB1805

Mary Ann Kuo

Self

Houston, TX

I oppose this bill and do not believe the passing of this bill will benefit the citizens of the state of Texas.

Jack Chen

JC CHEN

FULSHEAR, TX

I oppose this. Thank you.

Aaron Groff

Self (Mayor of Fulshear)

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Fulshear, TX

I oppose this bill as it would have a negative impact on every community in Texas. The victims of these perpetrators need time to heal and the perpetrators, of some of the worst crimes in Texas, need the additional time served to help ensure rehabilitation. I fear the unintended consequences of this bill may in deed have dire results for the State of Texas.

Maritza Luviano

Self

Houston, TX

Oppose HB 1805

Benjamin Simpson

Self

Fulshear, TX

I oppose this bill. Our criminal justice system is already generous enough and allows for early release via parole. We should not be allowing violent offenders to earn extra time off to be released even earlier.

Jennifer Hodo

Self

Boerne, TX

Please, please do not pass this! It would be detrimental to the victims and the state.

Rhonda Hutton

Self

Fulshear, TX

I oppose this bill. They did the crime, they do the time.

Katherine Speed

Self

Houston, TX

Do not give time off for good behavior for violent offenders...I oppose 1805

Tim T

Self

Fulshear, TX

I oppose this bill as it would give the ability for violent felons to quickly get back onto the streets

Maura Pickup

Self

FRIENDSWOOD, TX

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OPPOSE

Melissa Ferrand, RN

Self, RN

Houston, TX

I vehemently oppose this bill. We must keep our cities safe!

Jocelyn Silva

Self

Houston, TX

I Oppose of this bill

Murderers & Sex Offenders should not have this right!!

Harming someone or taking there life is someone who dosen't get the luxury of not serving time!

Trina Cameron-Rothman

Self

Richmond, TX

Strongly opposed

Joni Haines

Self

Houston, TX

No!!!! I vote we are watching...

Erica Molina

Self

Wallis, TX

I oppose HB 1805

Paul Fortes

Paul Fortes MD PA

Houston, TX

Criminals in jail should remain in jail. There is a parole system already in place to determine if a specific criminal has earned the privilege of early release. A Bill that allows for mass release of criminals is an extremely bad idea and dangerous for society. DO NOT pass any bill that automatically releases criminals from their sentences!

Kevin Mannion

Self. Government Employee

Fulshear, TX

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I strongly oppose this bill as both a citizen and a retired member of law enforcement. Given that convicted criminals can already reduce their court mandated sentence by HALF, this bill would only further water down the judicial process and the role of the courts. If you commit a crime, you should know the penalties and consequences for those actions. Why do criminals fear the federal law enforcement agencies so much? Because they know that if convicted they will have to do 90% of that time. Please don't embolden criminals and emasculate law enforcement.

Thank you for your time.

Melissa Milton

Kendall County Criminal District Attorney's Office

Boerne, TX

It is extremely important that these offenders serve as much of their sentence as possible. It is a crime against their victims to allow these offenders loose after only serving such a small percentage of the time they are originally sentenced. This sends a message to criminals that these crimes are not taken seriously. Let's make it clear to criminals that these crimes will not be punished lightly.

Monica Agour

Myself

Cypress, TX

I AM OPPOSING THIS BILL. This should not be allowed not passed. I don't feel safe if this is passed for myself, Kids and family. STOP THIS BILL

Brittini Buccieri

Self

Fulshear, TX

I oppose HB 1805. Criminals should have to serve their time for their crime. What's the point in having laws if you they don't have harsh consequences? Setting an example of "go ahead and break a law and you can get out early" is a slippery slope of society not take laws seriously, which could turn into even more crime.

Georgia Wren-McConn

Myself

HOUSTON, TX

With crime rates already at an all time high especially in our larger cities (Houston has 50% more homicides than this time last year), why are we letting more criminals out? I am opposed to this and to the lower/no bond and bail for murderers especially capital murderers. These criminals know it's a revolving door and many commit more crimes as soon as they get out of jail.

Donna Epley

Citizens

Houston, TX

Please keep violent offenders in jail

Adriana Bain

Bain Family

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Houston, TX

As a mother and business owner, I adamantly oppose HB 1805. To keep our families safe, the thousands of violent criminals, including murderers and sex offenders this law would release, need to stay behind bars. No mother should be afraid of going to the grocery store or of employees' risk for their safety. Texans deserve to feel safe from violent criminals. Please help keep Texas families safe. Do NOT pass HB 1805.

Wanda Luna Thompson

Self

Allen, TX

I support the HB 1805 and ask all of you to vote the bill out of committee. We have men and women first offenders with extremely long sentences . Many of them working on their bachelor and masters degrees to be able to be productive citizens in this society . They are not the same men and women they were before . They have repented , they have better themselves , they have mature , they have learned to deal with life situations better and they deserve a chance to be contributing to society again .

Monica Noel

Self/paralegal student

Humble, TX

This is extremely dangerous for society and the victims of the offenders. A victim of a violent crime is predisposed to PTSD. Releasing the criminal responsible for their trauma will only increase their trauma and can possibly cause a setback. It's also dangerous to society. An offender will lie and change their behavior to get what they want. Just because they behave on the inside doesn't mean they will behave once released. Offenders constantly cut off their ankle GPS, or ignore their curfew requirements. As of today, 104 people in Harris County were murdered because of a repeat offender released on bond. That's 104 too many victims. Innocent lives are being lost because of this. "Victims are the only people in the CJ system that did not chose their role....everyone else made the decision to participate", Andy Kahn. Releasing offenders early based on good behavior in prison will only encourage outside offenders, instead of deter them. We must all work together to make Texas a safe place for its residents and visitors.

Sherry Robinson

Self

Woodway, TX

Dear Legislators:

There is interest in prison reform. Citizens are seeing that our country has the highest number of incarcerations and Texas the highest in the nation. The Covid pandemic highlights this shame. You are accomplished and educated men and women. You know that mass incarceration is inhumane, drains resources, and is a serious civil rights issue.

Passing HB 1805 gives you the opportunity to address such important issues. Early release through good behavior reduces crowding, saves money, and helps right some wrongs.

Please do the right thing for Texas and support HB 1805.

Thank you for your service.

Sherry Robinson

Robert Green

Kendall County Sheriff's Office

Boerne, TX

I urge members of the Texas Legislature to join me in strong opposition to this ill-conceived bill. If passed, this means that over 5000 murderers, 6000 sex offenders, and 5000 other violent offenders would be IMMEDIATELY eligible for parole. Remember

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what happened in the early 90's when TDCJ released thousands of convicts who had served only a fraction of their sentences. Psychopaths such as Kenneth McDuff were turned loose on society, taking a very tragic toll in human lives. Vote NO to HB 1805.

Nancy Anderson, Citizen

Self Retired

Richmond, TX

Having read the proposed bill, researched the current parole statutes and considered the overcrowding of our jails and prisons as well as our children's safety, I've decided I must submit my thoughts. Having been a long time State employee, I can appreciate the TDCJ problems with overcrowding and lack of funding. However these criminals' offenses are 20A.03, CONTINUOUS TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS - 21.02, CONTINUOUS SEXUAL ABUSE OF YOUNG CHILD OR CHILDREN - 21.11(a)(1), ENGAGES IN SEXUAL CONTACT WITH THE CHILD OR CAUSES THE CHILD TO ENGAGE IN SEXUAL CONTACT, and last 22.021 AGGRAVATED SEXUAL ASSAULT - and the bill's summary is "AWARD FOR GOOD CONDUCT". I see no good conduct in these words.

Two of these statues include the word CONTINUOUS behavior. I hope that studies regarding the effectiveness of treatment programs for these sex crimes are carefully being reviewed.

With the electronic world we live in today, it is unfortunate that activities that these types of criminals engage in are so much easier than in the past and our children are even more vulnerable than in the past. So the passing of this bill puts our children at even greater risk. As parents, grandparents and as concerned citizens we MUST do everything we can to protect our children who are the future. PLEASE DO NOT PASS THIS BILL. Thank you - Nancy Anderson.

Amelia Matkins

Self/Retired

Katy, TX

3G Inmates should not be considered due to our public safety.

Sherry Gleason

self - housewife

Wylie, TX

Please award good conduct time to inmates. Our inmate has behaved and followed the rules for years with no incentive to do so. If that doesn't count for something, what does? People can learn from their mistakes. Please give them hope that, by so doing, they can redeem themselves.

Gilda Bayegan

MMB Properties

HOUSTON, TX

I OPPOSE passage of this bill. We need greater protection from criminals, and more penalty for crime, not less!

Billie Polen

Self

Wylie, TX

Please consider this bill. If the point of prison is rehabilitation, then reward model prisoners. This give them incentive to be model prisoners.

Rebecca Gross

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SELF - RETIRED

Boerne, TX

I am OPPOSITION to the passage of this bill. Those who have committed crimes should serve out the sentence originally imposed.

Respectfully,  
Rebecca Gross

Richard Polen

Self

Wylie, TX

If the goal of prison is to rehabilitate, this bill should support that goal. I support the overall objective of this bill. Please give it your full consideration.

Sean Polen, Self

Self

Carrollton, TX

Please consider passing this bill. With the over-crowding in our prisons, this allows to reward inmates for good behavior. This will help inmates benefit good behavior and stay motivated to do better.

Ann Cameron

Self

San Antonio, TX

Not all inmates qualify for good conduct time. Those inmates serving a lengthy sentence deserve the right when their behavior and work is exemplary of this option. My son is serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole until he has served a minimum of forty years. He is respected by the guards and wardens He has been assigned jobs that are usually not given to persons serving lengthy time. The jobs he has worked require trust and dependability. Why shouldn't he be rewarded for being ?

Christopher Meyer

Self

McKinney, TX

I oppose HB1805

Katherine McDaniel, First Assistant District Attorney

Kendall County Criminal District Attorney's Office

Boerne, TX

HB 1805 would have serious and unfair consequences on our communities, benefitting some of the most violent of offenders. Well over 95% of all criminal cases are resolved with a plea bargain, and part of that consideration at the time the agreement is entered is the mandatory minimum that any offender will have to serve. As prosecutors, we discuss these mandatory minimums with next of kin in murder cases, parents and grandparents in child sex abuse cases, with the victims of aggravated robberies and other violent offenses. When we, as representatives of the State of Texas, make a plea bargain for 50 years on a serious crime, for example Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child, we know that the offender will have to serve 25 calendar years before he be

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considered for release. We tell these victims that they will be safe for that amount of time, and they should be able to rely on our word, and the law as it was written at the time of the agreement. Moreover, with our prison population ever-decreasing, many of them closing, why are we, as a State, looking to benefit those who place us all in danger? Many in our communities are already confounded with our lack in truth -in-sentencing, and that a 10 year sentence sometimes means 2, sometimes 5. Our system must respect the desire of the community, of the juries in our State, that these most dangerous offenders have a greater punishment than non-violent offenders.

Julie McCuen

Self

Houston, TX

I oppose this Bill. Crime is already increased significantly in Harris County, we do not need to continue to release criminals who have not served an appropriate amount of their time

Cynthia Nitzsche

self

Deer Park, TX

I am vehemently AGAINST this bill. This bill undermines the entire criminal justice system. This bill completely disregards the victims of these 3(g) crimes. This bill, if passed, will make 23,681 TDCJ inmates immediately eligible for parole who are currently NOT eligible for parole under the sentence that they received; many of those sentences that they AGREED TO under a plea bargain. This bill tells all crime victims that they cannot trust the State of Texas. This tells all jurors that their verdicts do not matter. This tells all judges that the hard work and consideration they put in while determining a sentence does not matter. This bill is retroactive. Many of its supporters only want their convicted loved ones home from prison; they offer no consideration for the victims of their loved ones' crimes. Many more of its supporters proprot to be "victims of crime" while the organizations that they belong to specifically state in their mission statement that they only want to reduce the prison population of Texas and 7 other states. Those organizations began in California. They pay people to come to Texas and speak against our laws. They bus people into and around Texas to testify in favor of bills that harm crime victims. No. That is not how Texas does things. Many of the supporters claim to have not received a fair trial, were enhanced and didn't understand it, are innocent, etc. Issues with the trial court and post conviction relief needs to be taken up with those entities and NOT in legislation that will harm Texas crime victims. For each of those 23,681 crimes there are AT LEAST that many crime victims. These convicted felons are not in prison for singing out of tune in choir; they committed what the Texas Legislature has deemed the worst of the worst crimes, aka "3(g) Offenses" as previously codified. There are only 15 crimes listed under the previous code (now codified at Texas Code of Criminal Procedure 42A.054) out of HUNDREDS of crimes in the Texas Code. Only 15. The supporters of this bill would have you believe that it pertains to 90% of the population. It does not! Per numbers provided by TDCJ, inmates convicted of 3g crimes are being paroled at a 41.62% approval rate as it is. The overall prison population is being paroled at a rate of 38.59%. This bill, as written retroactively, is a terrible bill for Texas crime victims. This bill should not even be sent to the house floor for a vote. If there was a way to stop such harmful bills from being filed in the future, I would do anything I could to stop the filing. Besides having to prepare for a parole hearing, I've had to deal with this nonsense for now THREE legislative sessions, to ensure that the person that killed my daughter, my only child, would not become eligible for parole sooner than I was told by the prosecutor, the judge, and the offender who agreed to the sentence. I'm tired. My family needs a break from this nonsense. Thank you for your consideration.

Charlie West

self

Boerne, TX

There should not be a blanket law setting terms of parole for all individuals. These must be taken on a case by case basis where improvment has been documented, the person has been evaluated by experts to determine their ability to be released and the potential for success once released.

Danielle Eli

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Self

Beaumont, TX

I'm for the bill

Bonnie Wilson

TIFA

Spring, TX

We support this Bill - as it offers a humane approach to men that give back after being sent to prison

Lawrence and Jenny Brown

self

Plano, TX

We are very much in favor of the passage of this bill which would allow those who are qualified to rejoin society at an age which they could still contribute. Many of these inmates have made one mistake in their lives and deserve a chance for a second opportunity. Without this bill, there is little or no hope for redemption. Without this bill, inmates who serve long sentences will be released at a point in their life where there is no time to take up and develop new skills and knowledge required to succeed in the outside world. Thank you for your consideration.

Teresa Perkins

Self/Sr Product Analyst

Porter, TX

I have a loved one currently incarcerated. These people deserve to qualify for work time and earned time credits. What better way to promote someone changing their lives for the better? Having incentives for someone to acquire further training, take improvement courses and better themselves is a proven method to make a change in their lives going forward. Would you rather a prisoner do nothing to better themselves and get out in a worse condition than when they went in? If a person is convicted to a prison sentence to serve in TDCJ - life, technology and work skills pass them by. If they do not participate in education programs, work programs etc... they are ill-prepared for society when they are released. Having incentives helps better prepare them for life once released. They will be better, more successful members of society and make positive contributions versus being a further burden.

In addition, please remember that just because a person is convicted of a 3G offense, DOES NOT MEAN that they are automatically a "violent offender". Plenty of them are convicted of a 3G offense when there was no violence involved.

I am pleading with you to vote this bill out of committee so that it can make it to the floor. Thank you and God Bless!

Kaleen Weatherly

Self/Nurse

La Porte, TX

Inmates should have to serve their time no matter what. They do not need to be awarded good conduct time, they had that opportunity before making the decision that landed them where they are. This is a horrible bill and should not be allowed to be passed.

Sharla DeMedeiros

Private citizen

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Austin, TX

If the State of Texas is not going to pay inmates for their work, then the least they can do is reward them with early release for good conduct. It benefits all parties involved. Emotionally and financially.

Matthew Brown

Self

McKinney, TX

Many who oppose this bill will have several examples of evil people who performed horrendous crimes and deserve to remain in prison. Please keep in mind that inmates such as those are not the target of this bill. If the parole board performs as it's intended to, these inmates won't be the ones who will be eligible for parole any sooner. This bill is targeting the one time offenders, the foolish youth who made a mistake and as a result have had to spend a portion of their adult life behind bars, not those who have chosen a life of crime.

Ideally prison is not just for punishment, but also for rehabilitation so that we can be sure they would not be a threat to society if released, correct? I maintain that if a person who is not a repeat offender, can continue to prove that they aren't a threat to society while in prison, then that person should at least have the opportunity to have his case reviewed by the parole board. If that person does in fact still need to be rehabilitated, then wouldn't that be up to the parole board to determine? Isn't this something that needs to be determined on a case by case basis? This bill would simply allow the parole board to do so.

For those who would be fortunate enough to be granted a second chance, wouldn't it be in everyone's best interest for them to succeed? Time is one of the most valuable things a person can have. Please, if a person proves themselves worthy, grant them the gift of additional time to turn their lives around. Wouldn't that time be better spent than wasting away in a cell?

Nicole Elam

Na

Houston, TX

Oppose bill HB I805

Karen Page

Myself and my Family

San Angelo, TX

I urge you to support this bill that encourages inmates to participate in rehabilitation and skill building to transform their lives through educational, vocational, treatment, and work programs that they have completed during their prison sentence. Earned time credit legislation is known to reduce state prison expenditures by reducing the prison population and reducing recidivism rates. Thank you for your service to the State of Texas

Felicia Sutton

Self. Interior Designer

Houston, TX

Please do not pass this legislation. People who are convicted of crimes should serve their sentences. Do not change parole eligibility.

Steven Kagy

Self, Investment Management

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Fulshear, TX

I oppose HB 1805 and ask for your support in opposing HB 1805. Those in our society that have been found guilty of committing a crime that requires incarceration should be required to complete the entirety of their sentence. These individuals have shown their inability to follow the laws of our community and be productive members of society and serving out their sentence should be seen as a deterrent to others. Other States, such as California, have watered down their criminal justice system in similar ways, which has only served to increase crime and impact the communities and lives of law abiding citizens. Reducing time served limits the deterrence that incarceration provides and imposes a greater cost on society. Please oppose HR 1805 and maintain the rule of law in Texas.

Christine McDonald

self

Houston, TX

OPPOSE HB1805

Dawn Fitzgerald

Crime Stoppers of Houston

Houston, TX

If passed, HB 1805 will immediately allow over 23,000 violent offenders to be IMMEDIATELY ELIGIBLE TO BE RELEASED FROM PRISON!!!

- 5,753 murderers
- Over 7,000 sex offenders
- 3,595 Aggravated Assault and Human Trafficking offenders
- 5,052 offenders convicted of Robbery related offenses
- Bottom Line: I'm Not in favor and more than half of Houston wouldn't be if their was full transparency.

Please on behalf of the community don't pass this.

Michelle Heinz

Leading Women for Public Safety

Houston, TX

I oppose HB 1805. Why: 1)more than 100 people have already been murdered in Harris County in 2021 2) the shocking surge in crime already throughout Texas, but mostly Harris County due to felony bond reform 3) I do not have faith in the parole board as I have seen the Texas parole board repeatedly release very dangerous felons without thoroughly vetting the felons, so I do trust their judgement 4) making 23,000 dangerous murderers, rapists, sex traffickers, pedophiles...immediately eligible for release is a public Safety nightmare. I beg this committee to vote AGAINST HB 1805

Natasha King

Self/Mother and Technical sales executive

Houston, TX

I oppose!!!!

Janet Imhoff

League of Women Voters of Texas

McKinney, TX

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The League of Women Voters of Texas supports this bill. This bill gives hope to inmates serving excessive sentences. It does not guarantee them an earlier parole date; it just gives them a chance to earn an earlier review date. They are motivated to work at rehabilitating themselves by being responsible workers at their jobs in prison, at getting treatment they need, and by seeking education and vocational classes.

Melinda Grayson, LWVTX Criminal Justice Issue Chair, melindag.lwv@gmail.com

Louis Trinidad

Self

San Antonio, TX

Model inmate , to my understanding, inmate has no cases pending

Megan Behrens

self

coupland, TX

please do not pass this bill!!!

Meryl Gregory

Self

Houston, TX

Enough is enough! Stop the release of convicted criminals! Too many parolees are committing crimes! Why are they being released???

Joel Mafrige

My self and my family

Houston, TX

I oppose this bill. Why would you do this ?? These people need to serve their time.

Mary Schneidau

Self, homemaker, volunteer

Houston, TX

I oppose this bill

Sanjuana Sanchez, Miss

Self

Lytle, TX

I think this is a great bill to pass. Many and I mean MANY men and women who are incarcerated have been severely punished for offenses they did when they committed at a very young age. I myself have a loved one in prison who I will fight for until my last breath. He committed an offense when he was 18 years old and was punished severely for a crime he didn't do alone and got a capital punishment for. He was a child, a young adult who didn't know much, just the typical teenager things. This year will be 17 years that he has served in prison and I will tell you all something, that man has better morals, manners and faith stronger

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than most people out here in the free world. I ask you all to please pass this bill and help the many men and women who committed an offense and served a severe punishment of many years in prison and who have good conduct and who have demonstrates they serve no harm to public.

Dora Arroyos

Self

Beeville, TX

I support HB 1805 by Moody.

Lisa Brawley

Self

Rosenberg, TX

Strongly opposed.

Ana Sanchez

Self and home maker

SAN ANTONIO, TX

This would be super amazing, With good conduct even better. As we all deserve a second chance. Especially those who have been incarcerated for so many years.

George Simons

Self

Spring, TX

If passed 23,000 felons will be released. Please vote this bill now.

Kaye Kahlich

Self - retired

Fulshear, TX

I am requesting that the committee members bite a FCC against this bill. Violent offenders represent a risk to the public.

Jill Nixon

self

Houston, TX

Texas is experiencing a surge in violent crimes particularly in its urban areas. To commute sentences for violent criminals will create a maelstrom of crime that will take decades to curb. These criminals were put away for a reason. To arbitrarily release them can only be described as foolish. I will be watching this closely and will cast my vote for representation based on support of this bill going forward.

Karen Butts

Self

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Pattison, TX

Opposed to early release for good behavior

Carey Cappis

Self

Katy, TX

I am against this bill when it concerns inmates convicted of violent crimes such as rapists, murderers, child sex offenders and human traffickers.

Jodi Richey

Self

Richmond, TX

They need to serve the full sentence. No good behavior erases or excuses what they have done.

John Healey, Retired District Attorney, Fort Bend County

Self. Attorney

Richmond, TX

As a District Attorney for 26 years, I have observed the criminal justice system from within. I firmly believe that the public safety is enhanced by making violent criminals serve at least half of their sentence, without regard to good time opportunity. Please leave the current laws regarding the earning of good time by violent criminals alone. You will Only be hurting the hard-working and good citizens, including the vast majority who are victimized by violent criminals ( the good people in urban areas), if this bill passes. Thank you

Gena Jongebloed

Self

Houston, TX

I oppose this HB 1805.

Lori Viggiano

Self

Fulshear, TX

I very much disagree with this bill. Make these sick people serve minimum 50% if their sentence.

Angelica Canales

Na

San Antonio, TX

Pass this bill. people make mistakes give them a chance

Laurs Freudenberger

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Self

Houston, TX

Strongly opposed

Tana Weiss

Self

Katy, TX

Opposition

Perla Sorto

Self

Dallas, TX

I support

Susan Lockwood

Self

Sugar Land, TX

No!

Jessica Ritter

Self

Missouri City, TX

I oppose this bill.

Lydia Junek, Ms

Self/Retired

Katy, TX

I am opposed to this bill, and believe Criminals will only be on good behavior to get an early release. Then once released, they will commit more crimes. Criminals know how to play the system.

Joe Nixon

self

Houston, TX

Clearly anyone with sound mind and body sees this as total nonsense. I am vehemently opposed to this House Bill. Stop it and Stop it now. Joe Nixon...

Vanessa Dimas

Self

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San Antonio, TX

I believe that inmates who have displayed good conduct while serving their sentence should be granted parole eligibility or shorter sentences.

Caroline Fix

Self

Richmond, TX

Opposed! Opposed!

Edward Rothman

Self

Richmond, TX

Strongly oppose

Delsi Esquivel-Willie

Self

SAN ANTONIO, TX

I agree and Support this bill.

Doug Dickey

Self

Bryan, TX

Please do not allow this to pass

NaKeatha Hodge

self- School Counselor

COLLEGE STATION, TX

I am 100% in support of HB 1805 Earned Time Credit. As an educator and School Counselor, it hurts me to see my children suffer from having a parent that is incarcerated. It affects the child academically, emotionally, socially, and financially. There needs to be some compassion. I know that all of us know or have at least one family/friend etc. that is incarcerated. I never understood the concept of how you can throw the book at an individual and tell them no matter whether they are good and behave while locked up they can't earn the time because of the type of offense that was committed? Why work for something and there is no light at the end of the tunnel. If this bill was to pass or give inmates' the opportunity to earn their good time without getting major cases etc. I truly believe that offenders would work for rehabilitating themselves to be able to come home to their families and children. If they don't... well let's just say that is how you separate the boys from the MEN!!! I am very passionate about the issue. I am thankful for our justice system; however, I do feel there need to be some changes. I have to deal with behaviors on a daily basis and even though I know some of my same misbehaving students act up, I have to continually give them the opportunity to start over and correct the errors. We live in a society we all are receptive to rewards and positive reinforcements. Allowing these individuals a chance to come back to society and make a change shows the statement to error is humane to forgive is divine. The most important part to this bill that I don't believe is resonating to individuals who may not support the bill, is that passing this bill does NOT and I repeat NOT mean that you are going to parole early. This just gives inmates the opportunity to be viewed sooner than their expected parole date. There is so much happening in this pandemic people are getting

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sicker, and dying. The conditions are extreme on both sides (inmates as well as the employees) social distancing is non-existing, PPE materials for staff and inmates is limited, and non-visitation has taken a toll on families and their love ones. There is not a better time as now that families could have the chance to be reunited when it is needed. My prayer is that this bill is carefully looked at voted to pass, in hopes that this gives those men and women that are earning credit in vocational, technical training, faith based and many more programs the hope and opportunity to have their dedicated time and work to be valued and consider for possible parole if nothing else and you don't consider it for the inmates, think of their love ones and most importantly their children.

Lawren Eckhardt

Self

Richmond, TX

I oppose this change and believe violent criminals should not be eligible for parole earlier than is what is currently allowed.

Freda Hart

Self

Cypress, TX

I absolutely oppose the early release of inmates for any reason. It doesn't serve the injured families or benefit the safety of our community when these inmates are released before their time is served. Please do not allow this bill to pass!

Lindsey Castellanos

Self

Sugar Land, TX

I am strongly opposed to awarding good conduct to violent offenders and allowing them to serve less than 50% of their time on good behavior. Victims and survivors deserve justice and allowing a lesser sentence than what is handed down by a jury or judge is not justice. Victims and survivors aren't healed by their offenders good behavior. Criminals should not be rewarded in this way.

Melanie Davis

H.O.N.O.R. Mentoring

Montgomery, TX

My name is Melanie Davis. I have worked with incarcerated veterans and their neighbors inside Texas Department of Criminal Justice for four years. In this service, alongside the field ministers at Eastham Unit, we developed a program called H.O.N.O.R. Mentoring. H.O.N.O.R. is an acronym for Helping Our Neighbors Overcome and Rebuild. In 2019 it received the Governor's Award and a Congressional Commendation and in 2020 it received the Peacebuilder Award. The concept of the program is to create opportunities for prisoners to heal and rehabilitate by serving one another. This works phenomenally well because feeling like our lives have purpose and matter is basic human need!

A big part the growth that comes from service is allowing prisoners to know they are heading in the direction of a better life, and hope for the future! This Earned Time Bill is an essential part of allowing our incarcerated citizens to change. Real change comes from opportunities to serve, grow and ADVANCE! Please pass this bill! There is a long list of scientifically-based reasons why giving people an opportunity to pay back and pay forward will produce better prisoners and much better returned citizens. We MUST think of the mental health of those we have incarcerated as well as the SAFETY of society when they get out, because most will be released.

With this bill, Texas has the opportunity to lead our nation at a critical time. The conditions of COVID-19 has shown how horrible the conditions of our prisons are, not just during the pandemic, but systemically. We must not let this legislative season go by without addressing what has been PUBLICALLY revealed. There is a growing grassroots movement for prison reform,

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because it is far overdue. Let's step up and be part of the solution, and the Earned Time Credit is the BEST bill you have to consider as it is rehabilitative, restorative and will motivate those who are wanting, even praying, for the opportunity to have a life beyond the mistakes they have made. Don't we all deserve Second Chances? You have the opportunity to stand up and say "YES!" by voting for this bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my testimony  
Melanie Davis

Yvonne Chauvin  
Self  
Cypress, TX

OPPOSE!!

Betty Oviedo  
Self  
San Antonio, TX

I am in favor of this bill

Andrea Ybarra  
Self genetic counselor  
Fulshear, TX

Please oppose. I am a CASA volunteer and work with children in foster care in Fort Bend County. Allowing these offenders to get out early on good behavior would be a disservice to the victims of these crimes who have suffered immensely. Please help the helpless and oppose this bill.

John Tankersley  
self  
RICHMOND, TX

I don't care if they are model prisoners. They broke the law and deserve the full punishment.

Victoria Vidaurri  
Rhonda Kuykendall  
Magnolia, TX

I vote no to this proposition.

Daphne McConnell  
self, RN  
Houston, TX

I oppose HB 1805.

- If passed, HB 1805 will immediately allow over 23,000 violent offenders to be IMMEDIATELY ELIGIBLE TO BE

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RELEASED FROM PRISON!!!

- 5,753 murderers
- Over 7,000 sex offenders
- 3,595 Aggravated Assault and Human Trafficking offenders
- 5,052 offenders convicted of Robbery related offenses
- Bottom Line: Current statutes mandate violent offenders (3g) are required to serve half of their sentence without the ability to accrue good time credits to expedite parole eligibility. HB 1805 changes the statute retroactively

Jennifer Pazicni

Self

Fulshear, TX

The victims don't ever get a chance to be free of what happened to them.

William Hunt

Self

Boerne, TX

I'm hoping there is a vote "Nay" for HB1805. The thought of jurors, Judges and our community believing a person sentenced for a violent crime, those against persons, would be let out earlier than sentenced is sickening. Allowing those persons who cause serious bodily injury, rape, murder, crimes against children and the like being let out of prison early is not a deterrent at all. Simply because someone figures he could help himself by becoming a trustee or other coveted positions in prison is to benefit themselves! You would hope those sent to prison never go back.

If this passes, these inmates will know if they play the game, they're for sure going to get out a whole lot earlier. Where's the deterrent?

Having been in law enforcement for over 40 years, I do not believe softening their sentence, on violent offenders is the answer. Please vote NO to HB1805.

Thank you,  
William D.Hunt  
Kendall County

OLGA DICKINSON

SELF

HOUSTON, TX

I am asking to pass this bill, my brother has served 27 years this May of a 35 year sentence and has not been approved for release on parole, he has met all the requirements including good conduct for over 10 years. thank you

Veronica Morales

Self

Dallas, TX

Earned Time Credit Bill (HB 1805) It would authorize "Earned Time Credits" toward parole ELIGIBILITY for all persons incarcerated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ). It would not shorten sentences, but provide more opportunities for part of the sentence to be served in the community. Eligible inmates would have the opportunity to earn "Time Credits" by participating in rehabilitative programs such as educational, vocational, rehabilitation, and agricultural work. Programs like these not only incentivize inmates to take action while incarcerated, but are known to lower recidivism rates as well as stabilize the family structure. This bill will motivate inmates to invest in themselves, while also managing to reduce prison system costs and create safer communities.

I ask that you consider supporting HB1805.

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Sarah Johnson

Self

Richmond, TX

Violent offenders, murders, rapists, sex offenders and especially those that commit these heinous crimes against children should serve the maximum sentence prescribed to them. These offenders destroy the lives of others through their deeds and no amount of good behavior done can erase those actions. The victims of these crimes are impacted on a daily basis often reliving them through PTSD and other mental and physical distress. They will never have an option to lessen the effect these deeds have placed on them. A court of law sentenced criminals to serve out their term in accordance with the nature of their crime. It is only right that they serve the full duration. Any exception would be a disgrace to the citizens of the USA and the victims of these crimes.

Pateicia Cano

Self

Katy, TX

As a victim and someone who works with and advocates for victims this isn't acceptable. The impact to victims is significant.

Daisy Reyes

self

San Antonio, TX

This is a great bill and I 100% support it.

Tracy Hobdy

Self, Museum Consultant & Event Coordinator

Richmond, TX

I am opposed to this bill. I believe these offenders should serve at least (hopefully more) than 50% of their time and NOT be allowed to earn good time off of sentence.

Donna Hutchins

self

Katy, TX

If you do the crime, you should do the time. They can practice good conduct once they are out.

Sonia Carzoli-Gupta, RN

self

El Paso, TX

Members of the Committee,

I respectfully submit my experience and opinion about the importance of awarding good conduct time to certain inmates to be considered for parole eligibility. I have been a Registered Nurse for almost 30 yrs. I have served all different groups of people from premature neonates to the elderly in their last moments in this earth. My Spouse suffering from a mental illness and in a moment of desperation committed an offense, and is incarcerated. As wife, as a daughter, as a woman, and as a nurse I ask you to

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consider adopting this bill HB1805 to award good conduct time credit to offenders that committed aggravated offenses. Gives us the opportunity as families to assist our loved ones to rehabilitate here with us, for them to be productive member of our society and earn a second chance in life. There are many cases like mine where we the family members are willing to get involved at a hundred percent in the rehabilitation of our loved ones, by supporting them financially, emotionally, and spiritually by all means necessary. Please consider each case individually and let your experts determined if our love ones are ready and have the support necessary to be successful in all aspects of life outside of the TDCJ facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Sonia Carzoli-Gupta RN.

Paige Holsapple

Self

Katy, TX

I am against violent offenders getting good time and not serving their FULL SENTENCE. They do NOT need to be allowed to manipulate their way out of the sentence and time received. Please protect all of us.

Barbara Strauss

Myself

Leander, TX

I am for HB 1805:

I want to pose the question: What have we been called to do? Today. Here. In this place?

What has God called this particular body or collect to do about what has been presented here today?

What is our mission concerning the lives of the imprisoned Americans in the state of Texas?

To answer in your heart, you must know a few things about the imprisoned that I have come to know:

1. Most of them want to be better men and women while in prison
2. Most of them are remorseful for the wrong-doing for which they have been incarcerated
3. Most of them that fall into one or both categories want to be better citizens once they are released
4. And lastly, Not ALL of them have been justly sentenced, and not all of them have been justly sentenced compared to others who committed the same or a similar crime

I do know a young man who has tried to make a difference while he is imprisoned, not only for his life, but unselfishly, he wanted and still wants to make a difference in the lives of others. He has led and still leads many to Christ, not just professing to have faith to demonstrate his own transformation, but risking persecution and punishment from fellow prisoners and TDCJ officials, he has professed his faith to fellow inmates, attempting with every fiber of his being to bring them also into the knowledge of Christ. And being the humble respectful man that he is, whether you were Muslim, atheist, Jewish, Non-Denominational, on the fence, Hispanic, Black, White, Asian, Undesignated, gay or straight, he taught those men that they can have a better life while they are there, no matter how they chose to live or what they chose to believe. He taught them that they don't have to live like they are dead, but their lives could have purpose, meaning and that all men deserved to know joy and peace and freedom. He often said and still says, you don't have to be free to be free, and you don't have to be locked up to be locked up.

He begged, borrowed, prayed, agonized and cajoled everyone he met so that each man in each unit, until he reached them all, ALL had the chance to hear 'this good news'. He prays today for US! and for this extraordinary time in history, For US to do the thing which we have been called to do.

He used his skill as a basketball player to teach men Proverbs and other scriptures, and once capturing their attention, he taught them life skills that would carry them through the tough times many of them faced while in prison. He said 'every man in here is going through something', so why do we tear each other apart? Why can't we learn to build each other up? Help a brother in need?

I think the world would be a much better place if we all took that lesson from a group of prisoners and applied it to our 'free world'. My request is that you consider what is possible when men like THAT are released. AND how we can perpetuate that model he so skillfully laid out and proved with the help of the Lord Himself.

Thank you,

Barbara Strauss

Carole Boatner

Self

Houston, TX

I strongly oppose releasing violent offenders without bail. This doesn't do anything to keep our families safe. As a law abiding and tax paying citizen I demand our streets and homes be kept safe from criminals.

Glennnda Wilke, victim coordinator

Kendall County Victim Services

Boerne, TX

As a victim advocate for victims of crime, particularly victims of sexual abuse. I am very concerned about our victims state of mind and safety if the defendant gets released early. Victims deserve to have the comfort of knowing that they do not have to worry that the person that abused them is going to serve all their sentence.

Sandra Janak

Self

Richmond, TX

Oppose this bill. Violent offenders should serve 50% or more of their time. They should never be allowed to walk on the streets sooner because of their violent behavior. Innocent people get hurt over and over if the punishment does not meet the crime. Serve the entire time.

Susan Simnitt

Self

FULSHEAR, TX

These inmates should serve their sentences. The victim will suffer a lifetime so they should stay in jail and serve the sentence decided at trial

Alison Snell

Self

Houston, TX

**DO NOT PASS.**

Seeing as how this bill includes violent predators this is a disgusting joke and embarrassment of a "bill" and an insult to justice and victims/survivors everywhere including that of innocent children/minors. Only a pedophile rapist murdering predator themselves or a sympathizer, which is just as demented, would try to pass something as disgusting and irresponsible as this. We need bills like this only for non violent offender types with possession charges who had the whole damn book thrown at them...NOT violent predatory psychopathic rapists pedos murderers etc that cannot assimilate into society. Moody I hope you have a very short career because your moral compass is apparently way off. What sort of people are you trying to represent here? Shameful.

Susan Gaspard

Self

Katy, TX

I can't believe this is even being considered. Why would you want dangerous evil people who have been convicted released early? I don't want them released at all. Think about your mother's, your children, your siblings. Do their lives matter? Don't release these people!

Kelly Pichon

Self

Houston, TX

Oppose this bill vehemently . Please listen to your constituents on this and not special interests . We will all be held accountable for our actions one day . Do the right thing please !!!!

Cynthia Kahle, Mrs

The law abiding people Normal good people

Houston, TX

No way. Do not release all those criminals. . What ARE You thinking?? HOUSTON' s crime has gone up so much already. This is CRAZY! The place will be like a war zone soon. Please represent the law abiding people.

Amanda Wolfe

Self, copywriter/community organizer

Houston, TX

Please, please exclude violent criminals from this. The dangers posed to the community are far too high.

Kent Kahle, Mr

All Law abiding citizens.

Houston, TX

You are crazy to let all these criminals out ! Protect the good law abiding citizens ! Where has common sense gone?

Jaclyn Elliott

self

Houston, TX

With all due respect, HB 1805 SHOULD NOT be passed! 3G VIOLENT OFFENDERS DO NOT deserve the ALREADY REDUCED sentence they are receiving under the current State Law. 3G VIOLENT OFFENDERS DO NOT deserve additional earned credits which would lead to murderers and rapists serving only 1/4 of their sentence!

My 2 aunts, Yleen & Lillie Kennedy, were murdered on March 5, 1984. Why Lillie laid on the floor bleeding out after being shot in the head, right next to her, Lillie's older sister Yleen was beaten and raped with a paper towel shoved down her throat. Their murderer eventually stabbed Yleen multiple times in the neck area causing her heinous death. Their murderer literally got away with murder for OVER 30 years before DNA connected him to Yleen's rape kit in 2015. Edmond Degan received a sweet plea bargain that reduced the Capital Murder charges to murder. He only had to plead guilty to Yleen's murder and the rape charges were dropped as a part of the plea bargain. Degan received a 15-year sentence in February 2017 and was already up for parole less than 6 months later thanks to the now abolished Texas Mandatory Release Law. Degan will only serve 6 calendar years of the 15-year sentence. Please ask yourself if these are the types of offenders that should receive Earned Credit time? I hope your answer is ABSOLUTELY NOT! In passing HB 1805, you are enabling this horrific cycle to continue. My family has missed over 30 years of celebrations, birthdays, and holidays together with Yleen and Lillie. It is completely unjust that the offender has

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received any sort of good behavior credits! When my Aunts' murderer is released from state prison on December 1, 2021 - he will NOT be required to register as a sex offender nor is the state alerting citizens of his and other violent criminals being released early. Please don't bring Earned Credits back for 3G Violent Criminals. I beg that you please consider my family's case and other victims of violence when voting.

Patricia Somers

Self

Sugar Land, TX

Releasing sex offenders before they have served 50% of their time. I don't think behavior should be a factor in their time served. They should serve at least 50% of their sentence.

Amite Dominick, Dr.

Texas Prison Air Conditioning Advocates

Rockport, TX

I am for this bill.

Cristal Escalante

Self - Customer Experience Associate

San Antonio, TX

I am for this bill please let's get this bill passed when theybare trying to better themselves

Jenifer Sarver

Self

Austin, TX

Testimony on HB 1805

By: Jenifer Sarver

The last night my father lived under the same roof as his dad was the night the military police arrested his father for beating his mother.

My father's life was marked by abuse and alcoholism and that night set off a chain of events that ultimately landed him in a foster home. ... In his early 20s he went to prison for burglary.

I stand before you today as someone who owns a successful business, has worked for the president of the United States, who ran for the United States Congress and who was raised in a loving, caring home by a minister and an educator.

But I am also the daughter of a convicted felon.

13 years ago when my mother was killed by a reckless teenage driver, my father went before the judge and plead leniency on behalf of the teenager. He didn't want the young man to be incarcerated. He knew the impact it would have on his life.

In the past four decades my Dad has worked for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, ministering to, supporting and counseling thousands of coaches and athletes in Texas, undoubtedly making a lasting impact on their lives. He retired just this January, and immediately began looking for ways he could give back - including serving as a chaplain in the Texas prison system.

My dad's story - my story - is filled with faith, grace and second chances.

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But that is not the story of most felons.

Today you have the opportunity to give incarcerated men and women a desperately needed second chance.

For those who have served time and have – against all the odds – used their time to better themselves, to get educated, to serve others and truly rehabilitate ... we should give them a second chance.

Our criminal justice system is broken. We spend too much money, locking away too many people. There is untold potential behind the bars of our state prisons, and HB 1805 gives us the opportunity to unlock those bars – and that potential.

If someone has demonstrated in the absolute worst situation that they can rise above, that they can stay on the straight and narrow path ... and that they can make something better of themselves, isn't that the absolute best we can hope for? That someone leaves our system better off than when they came?

Unfortunately, we know that is rarely the case. But this Legislature has the opportunity to reshape the system, change the incentives and help incarcerated men and women work their way back into being productive, contributing members of society.

I am passionate about criminal justice reform. I come before you as the daughter of a victim, the daughter of a felon ... and a proud Texan who knows we can do better.

I hope that we can take this step as a state, and build a system that produces more people like my dad and is characterized by faith, grace and second chances.

Gina Cosma

Self

Sugar Land, TX

Please vote against this bill and keep our communities safer by keeping offenders in prison as long as possible.

Cynthia Vargas

Self

Houston, TX

My children were molested by their father while is in prison. My children deserve time to grow up and heal without having to worry their father is going to get out of prison early. Think about the victims! They need time to feel safe and to heal. Letting criminals out early takes that time away from the victims. Haven't the victims been through enough!!

Lovinah Igbani

Self

Houston, TX

I support HB1805! I am FOR this bill. Many people will benefit from this bill & when eligible for parole, more people will be able to be reunified with their families.

Sonia Cruz

Self/Anesthesiologist

San Antonio, TX

My husband has been incarcerated for the past 11 years for a Aggregated Assault w/ SBI within the TDCJ system. He isn't

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entitled to have good conduct time added for his crime due to being a 3G offense. From the moment he stepped foot into TDCJ he has been a model inmate and has not gotten into any trouble while incarcerated. He has helped multiple inmates earn their GED, taught many to read, write, and learn english. He has been very active within church, has obtained 3 Associates degrees, and currently works as a teacher aide. He has completely reformed himself to be a productive person rather than become a problem. He still has 2 years before he will be eligible for parole. We have 2 children and they miss their dad. He has been a great father and husband despite his situation. People deserve a second chance and this will help families reunite.

Mark Keene

Self

Austin, TX

I am strongly in favor of this proposed legislation for the following reasons. The award of good time provides an incentive for the incarcerated to pursue positive change, to transform their lives, and thereby return to society as a productive member. Furthermore, the punishment for the crime has been imposed by the sentence. To continue that punishment, in the future, by taking away any credit for good behavior seems patently unfair. The inmates should have a chance to earn positive consideration for positive behavior that takes place AFTER the sentence, and therefore punishment for the crime, has been prescribed. Mercy is far too rare in the world today. We should at least support and EARNED MERCY. it's a positive for the rehabilitation of the incarcerated, it will spread a more positive attitude and approach to the prison population, it will assist the corrections officers in managing the population, AND it's the right thing to do from a moral and ethical standpoint. Thank you. /s/ Mark A. Keene

Lida Roberts

Self - Program Manager Collins Aerospace

Austin, TX

With the severe over-crowding of our prisons, I think this would be a great step forward to a solution. Especially with extensive sentences that have been handed down in the past for minor drug charges, this would give our TDCJ another tool to release the people that are proving themselves to be rehabilitated. I fully support this in an effort to reduce our crowding and fiscal issues with the jails.

Alexander Clark

self, student at Trinity University

San Antonio, TX

Attending the chariots of fire event put on by the men in the Hughes unit two years ago was life changing. I had never been inside a prison before prior to that experience, and to be completely honest was a little nervous going inside of one because of all the stereotypes that surround a prison and what the people inside of it are like. After going to this event though, all I wanted to do was come back and visit the guys in the Hughes unit again. I left that day reflecting on my own values because seeing those men with their positive attitudes, love for each other, and me, a complete stranger, brought me to tears. I have still been able to keep up with many of the guys because of this program and left that day astounded by the character of all the men that partook in this event. I am a student athlete at Trinity University, have been on the Deans list every semester, and have never been in trouble with law, but leaving that day all I could think about was that those men in the Hughes Unit were the best people I had ever met. They changed my life and made me realize I need to try and model myself after them. They were humble, nice, caring, kind, selfless, embracing, and so much more. Never had I met a better group of people and only hope that this bill can be passed so more people like those in the Hughes unit can come into our society sooner. It's clear the chariots of fire program is making a difference in the Hughes Unit as all the men "put their ones up" and "kept their head above the clouds." Our world would be a better place if everyone had the character of those men and I hope they can come into this world sooner because of this bill, because we all would be better off with their presence.

Diana Briseno, BSW, LCDC

TIFA Member/Family Member

HOUSTON, TX

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My son was incarcerated soon after his 18th Birthday, I support HB 1805, Relating to the award of good time conduct to certain inmates; changing parole eligibility. My son suffered from depression and anxiety which led to chemical dependency beginning at age 12. He is 32 years old now. He has grown, matured, and he is clean and sober. He has taken all the classes he is allowed to take as of now. He obtained his GED when he was 16 years old. He hopes to be accepted into college after the pandemic as he now qualifies to apply. HB 1805 will give incarcerated men and women the chance to earn good time conduct and it will give them and our families hope for the future. There are many people incarcerated that are doing well, they mentor others, serve in the Church, and demonstrate by their behavior they have changed, but are not able to earn good conduct time. We know the parole board will make the decision but the hope is that there is a chance based on their good conduct. People change. We really do. I changed, and I am so grateful I was given a chance. I am 27 1/2 years clean and sober. I have dedicated my life to helping others. God turned the worst part of my life around for good and I am forever grateful. I hope and pray HB 1805 is allowed to move through committee.

Thank you for your time.

Diana Briseno BSW, LCDC

MARISA CANO

Self

SAN ANTONIO, TX

I SUPPORT HB 1805

Stacey Carrillo

Self

ORANGE GROVE, TX

I completely support HB 1805.

Corey Perez

Self

Orange Grove, TX

I support

Jose Carrillo

Self

Kenedy, TX

I completely support HB 1805.

Leila Carrillo

Self

Orange Grove, TX

I completely support HB 1805

Lexie Frank

Self

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Alice, TX

I completely support HB 1805

Maria Garcia

Parent

San Antonio, TX

I fully and whole heartedly support HB 1805...

Marty Barnett

Self

Orange Grove, TX

I completely support HB 1805

Wesley McFarland

Yourself

Fort Davis, TX

I support the passage of HB 1805

Zschj Jones

Self

Fulshear, TX

I completely disagree. These criminals shouldn't get out earlier. Rapist, people you sexually abuse a child or sex traffic kids do not deserve a break.

Stevie Irby

Self

Sugar Land, TX

Sex offenders should not be released early. They put the public at risk and their victims need time to heal and feel safe again. Releasing them early retraumatizes survivors.

DAVID LANAGAN

Self

Sugar Land, TX

I want to voice OPPOSITION to HB1805. Please do not allow 3G inmates to accrue good time, now called earned time. Currently rapists, murderers, child sex offenders and sex traffickers are up for parole when they serve 50% of their sentence. If an offender receives a 20 year sentence, they are up for parole at 10 years. This bill will allow them to be eligible for parole sooner. Victims of these crimes deserve more time to heal before their perpetrators are released. Give victims a voice and please reject this bill. Thank you so much for your time.

Breanna Boppre, Dr.

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Self, Professor

Conroe, TX

I am writing in support for the passage of HB 1805. I am a criminologist and incoming assistant professor to Sam Houston State University in the Department of Victim Studies in the fall. I earned my Ph.D. in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 2018. I've conducted extensive research on the U.S. carceral system, published 14 articles in peer-reviewed outlets, and have taught students at the university-level about corrections since 2017. Stakeholders must consider the purpose of the correctional system in Texas. If rehabilitation is the goal to reduce recidivism and increase public safety, HB 1805 supports this mission. Providing the opportunity to earn good time is an incentive for incarcerated people to participate in educational, vocational, or rehabilitative treatment. Research consistently indicates that programming reduces recidivism after release, particularly in comparison to incarceration alone. Texas must also confront the financial and social consequences associated with lengthy sentences. Prisons cost Texas taxpayers \$50.79 per resident per day, amounting to \$18,538 per year. Each new state prison bed costs more than \$60,000 to build. TDCJ's budget increased from \$793 million in 1990 to more than \$3 billion in 2012. Further, lengthy incarceration has negative consequences for families and communities as incarcerated people often provide income and support for their loved ones. The impacts are particularly important to consider among children of incarcerated parents. Children of incarcerated parents face distinct adverse impacts such as mental health issues and behavioral issues, and they are about 2X as likely to become incarcerated during adulthood in comparison to children who do not have incarcerated parents. Thus, based upon the extensive literature, I am providing my informed support for HB1805.

Sharon Sachs

self

Katy, TX

criminals should fulfill at least a majority of their sentence especially after horrible crimes. Justice needs to be for the victims

Michelle Carlson

Self

Fulshear, TX

Why in the world is Texas even considering allowing violent offenders an option for early parole??? Find another way to save funds!!!! Come on Texas, you/we can do WAY better than this!!!!

Joy Holley

Kairos of Texas

Bastrop, TX

Please move forward for the sake of the young who received 40 years or more while still young and immature. Suggestion to relook at these after 10 years. Deter mass incarceration in Texas prisons which are a drain on taxpayers when alternatives are sensible alternatives. Thank you.

Elizabeth Ann Castillo-Bailey

Self

Elmendorf, TX

To Whom It May Concern,

I, Elizabeth Bailey urge the committee to take a look at inmates and their conduct while incarcerated for all offenses for early release negating the court's decision.

When my son was indicted, tried and sentenced it took the judge less than 5 minutes to decide his fate. I knew this would happen because lawyers told me the judge would sentence according to the prosecutor's judgment. I still don't know why we went to

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court. Although my son tells me he is where he should be for his crime.

What I would like the committee to think about is the rehabilitation that 20 or so years is supposed to do since the state does not have the resources or inspiration to actually help all inmates.

My son is fortunate because he has a caring family that sends him money to eat better, we pay for college correspondence courses and medical care.

Human beings rotting away in a cold facility does not wipe away crime and I know this because of the shootings, hate crimes, etc. that color the daily news.

In closing I would like to state that I urge the committee to review the bill objectively and with compassion.

Robert Nuelle

Self

Spring, TX

I OPPOSE this bill. As a Parent of a Murdered Child, I cannot in good conscience understand why any Convicted Criminal, already parole eligible after 50% of their sentence is served, DESERVE further reductions in their sentence. WE need to find ways to maintain their separation from the public here in Texas. I categorically OPPOSE this bill - please do not allow it to progress.

Sincerely,

Bob Nuelle, Jr.

Father of Liz Barraza - Murdered 01/25/2019

Michelle Presley

Self

Tomball, TX

I oppose this bill. Do not change parole eligibility.

Joshua Shelley

Self, service advisor

Bryan, TX

Murder and rape are not crimes that should not be allowed to earn anything. Not early release or any other positive items. These are the worst crimes a person can commit and you are not taking the victim or the families of victims into account. Violent crimes need to do time. Non violent Crimes are the ones that can leave early with good behavior or shorter terms. That's how we decrease the prison population. I have personally been effected my violent crimes. Early release and parole for violent crimes is hurting people. We have lost so many good people to murders after being let out early. Please do not consider this bill or any like it.

Carrie Tipton

Myself

Early, TX

This is needed. Too many inmates and not enough staff. Several of these offenders can be supervised in the community. It will save money and they can work to help the economy. These people need another chance. Especially first time offenders. Safety protocol can be put into place for community supervision. It's time for reform!

Shana Jones

Self

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Houston, TX

Opposition to HB 1805. Please keep Texas as a state that is of law and order!

Amanda Mattern

Self

Houston, TX

Please do not do this. This terrifies me. I was a victim of a violent crime and so was my friend was and they havent got the person who killed her yet. The families and the victimes will never be able to feel safe again. And just because they are good behavior inside doesnt mean it will continue. And if they are told that this is a possibility then god help us all. If this passes you are failing the peoole you represent and honor. To know that this is even a possibility is wrong. I have sympathy for the inmates i do but not when they maliciously murdered raped and mutilated people. I was shot years ago and the system failed me by not conviting until they killed someone. If anything the bill should be to press for the death penalty to be carried out faster instead of them sitting and wasting tax payer money and time. Please reconsoder this bill.

Jose Trinidad

Self. Real Estate Consultant

San Antonio, TX

I support HB 1805

Rhonda Gruenewald

Self

Houston, TX

Do not let out violent criminals. Keeping your constituents safe should be your top priority!

Doris Michalak

Self

Jersey Village, TX

Oppose. Strongly oppose release of criminals

Lindsay Aronstein

self

Houston, TX

I am OPPOSED to HB 1805:

If passed, HB 1805 will immediately allow over 23,000 violent offenders to be IMMEDIATELY ELIGIBLE TO BE RELEASED FROM PRISON!!!

- 5,753 murderers
- Over 7,000 sex offenders
- 3,595 Aggravated Assault and Human Trafficking offenders
- 5,052 offenders convicted of Robbery related offenses

Marie Whitson

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SELF

Houston, TX

Dear Committee Members: Regarding HB 1805, I am writing this as the Mother of an inmate that has been incarcerated for 26 years. He like many other inmates has worked very hard to turn his life around and do all he can to prove his sincerity and rehabilitation. Over the last 12+ years he has taken all required classes and also earned many certifications in different areas of study and courses. He has also earned certification for courses NOT required. He graduated in 2017 with a 3.75 GPA (and made Dean's List) from the TDCJ sponsored Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary/Darrington program, earning a 4 year Bachelor Degree in Biblical Studies. Since graduation from SWBTS he has served as an ordained and commissioned Field Minister through the TDCJ Chaplaincy Program. He is responsible for teaching, preaching and facilitating programs directly related to the Chaplaincy program, working directly with the Unit Chaplain and TDCJ Chaplaincy Director. There are many times he is up around the clock ministering and on call. I could share numerous stories of the inmates whose lives he has touched and helped turn around and that are now walking the right path. He is certified for the newly implemented Literacy Program, and is certified in Biblical Counseling, Peer Health, Tier Walking, Voyagers, Bridges to Life, Quest for Authentic Manhood. He teaches Financial Literacy, Anger Management, Overcomers, TUMI (The Urban Ministry Institute), Fatherhood/Parenthood, GED/College Tutorials and Homeward Bound. He is also currently enrolled in Alvin Junior College to earn a LCDC Associate Degree with a current GPA of 3.85. For those inmates like my son who have proven themselves, HB1805 would be a tremendous blessing because it would make them eligible to receive good conduct time and be considered for parole sooner based on their consistent and genuine efforts and proof of rehabilitation. And, if approved for parole this would allow them to return to their family and become a viable and contributing member of society. I respectfully ask that you consider passing HB1805 and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.