

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence  
For HB 909

Compiled on: Tuesday, April 4, 2023 3:59 PM

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Hearing Date: April 4, 2023 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Lisa Stocker  
Self  
Houston, TX

I fully support this bill and I pray you support it as well.

Mallory Greissingner  
Self -VP of sales  
Converse, TX

I support this bill

Laura Reeves  
Self  
Mineola, TX

Please sign and pass this bill. Thank you!

LAKENDRA MADISON  
Tifa  
Mesquite, TX

I i support this bill

Andrea Olivares  
Self - Warehouse Clerk  
Fort Worth, TX

Yes

Corenna Leal  
Self  
Refugio, TX

Please support this bill that will help many people including my son.

Jennifer Sanchez

Self

Houston, TX

This would definitely help

LaToya Lane

paralegal

Mesquite, TX

I would hope this bill passes so that people that have been incarcerated for several years and are not allowed good time - come home. If a person has spent several years incarcerated and has shown some reform, they should be granted good time and allowed an opportunity to come home. Good time is already offered to some inmates, but under this plan allow persons that have been incarcerated for 15 years and at least 50 years old- will have time to spend with their family in the later years of their life.

Karen Salazar

Tifa

Hearne, TX

I very much support this bill , we need this people. Red to go home who have did there timemade changes deserve another chance

Maria Melendez

Bh909

San benito, TX

Vote yes to this bill

Greg & Linda Whisenant  
self retired welder& retired teacher  
Dublin, TX

My name is Greg Whisenant and my wife is Linda. We appreciate the work you do on Criminal Justice Reform. We are excited about HB909. We have a son, Paul Miller, that has been incarcerated for the past 12 years for a crime he did not commit. That FACT is our bottom line. He is in prison today because he accepted a plea bargain to get out of jail in order to protect his 3 small business ventures: a car detail shop; car sales; & a new pistachio orchard. Ultimately, he would lose all 3. He is also in prison due to the fact his attorney did not properly defend him by presenting the facts in his case to the judge at his bond hearing. Another reason is the fact his girlfriend lied to the police about a domestic dispute they had. She would later sign an affidavit of non-prosecution, showing she did not want Paul to go to prison. We are almost certain this exculpatory evidence was not presented to the judge before the plea!

Justin Cunningham, the assistant DA(now deceased), who was in charge of Paul's case, wrote a memo concerning his investigation toward Paul's case. We believe the memo by Justin Cunningham simply verifies what we have known all along. The point being that we doubt that we could have stated the position of our case any more clearly than the prosecutor did himself. The following paragraph is his memo:

"plea offer was extended after consulting with victim, weighing physical evidence and statements made by both victim & defendant. Victim was interviewed by myself and Kasey Gross on multiple occasion both in person and on phone. Victim indicated that she did not want defendant to go to prison. Multiple times victim was still in contact & staying with defendant well after indictment. Victim also did not want to testify if at all possible. With these facts in mind, I extended the 7 year D/A offer. Case would come to a reluctant witness(victim) in a He said/She said case. It was better to get him to P/B than to risk her at trial"  
"Justin C."

We have difficulty believing that there could be a constitutional trial without a willing witness or even a witness to face! We don't believe any defense attorney in his right mind would encourage a client to take a plea bargain under the circumstances just stated above by the prosecution. Without a doubt it would have been better to go to trial.

Returning to the HB909, we are almost certain that our son would qualify for all the positive points that this bill features. He is 58 years old, has served 12 years of an enhanced 40 year sentence, and never had a disciplinary case brought against him. He has participated in work programs and the craft shop and every faith based program offered to him. This bill seems to be geared towards aspects of Judicial Review which we feel would be the answer to so many Criminal Justice woes. We look forward to the advancement of the HB909. Please pass this bill.

Sincerely, Greg & Linda Whisenant

Monika Shepherd  
self, Escrow Assistant  
Millsap, TX

PLEASE VOTE YES FOR THIS BILL! We are in desperate need for this bill to pass. If this bill passes it will give a newfound hope to my family and many others. We will have a chance to work with the counties in gaining actual justice in disproportionate sentences in the State of Texas. Please read the following summary as to why I am so passionate about this bill being written into law.

Matthew Dorsey #1444397 has served 17 years in TDCJ for being accused of Aggravated Assault of a Public Servant. He was convicted at the young age of 22 despite Trooper Robert Johnsons' exonerating testimony. Upon going to trial the courts engrossed his charge of evading arrest to aggravated assault of a public servant even though he did not touch or harm the state trooper. State Trooper, Robert Johnson, testified that he was not in harm's way. There was no bodily assault of any kind and no damage done to any surroundings. This was Matthews's first felony; he was a young man needing serious help and the Smith County Court sentenced Matthew to LIFE instead. The sentence alone is disproportionate to the crime committed. There was no injury that occurred or physical contact to anyone involved. Matthew is now 39 years old, not to mention TDCJ has the incorrect birth date logged for him. His birth date is 11/9/1983.

All this time served, and he never administered any harm to anyone, all this time because he was a young man that needed the proper counseling and rehab to avoid making reckless decisions. Instead, he was thrown away not to see parole for the first time until 11/1/2036! I would also like to mention the mental trauma it bestowed on his family, eventually killing his grandmother from the mental impact of her beloved grandson being taken away from her.