

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Corrections
For HB 1524

Compiled on: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 4:03 PM

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Hearing Date: March 28, 2023 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Teresa Cornman
Tifa Dallas Chapter
Sachse, TX

This bill needs to pass not only for the employees but for our loved ones . There is so much that happens inside them walls that no one sees please help us keep everyone safe. This bill will put a stop to a lot of corruption inside not to mention help keep our officers safe. God bless

Deborah Newman, Dr.
Self/TIFA
DALLAS, TX

I am for this bill to become law. This action will protect law enforcement officers as well as incarcerated individuals. Cameras in prisons have helped improve behavior of incarcerated individuals as well as the guards. Cameras aid in accountability. Please vote yes for this bill.

Christy Hutchison
David Hutchison
Winnsboro, TX

As a current prison wife of an inmate who's been inside TDCJ since 2009, I would like to voice my support of motion and or voice activated body cams be worn by all TDCJ correctional officers AND any administrative staff who has interaction with inmates or has access to inmates to include medical staff as well.

These body cams should be required for the safety and accuracy of any interaction between employees and inmates. They should not be allowed to be erased, tampered with, or claimed inoperable by any employee. The footage should be made available to be viewed by the inmate and any legal representative of the inmate if and when the footage is used to bring disciplinary charges internally against any inmate. I feel like if these cameras were not only motion activated but also voice activated, the residents of this state would be shocked at how correctional staff speaks to inmates and screams obscenities at inmates without cause. This goes back to treating these inmates like people with feelings and not caged animals lower than the dirt on the bottom of their shoes. I realize that staff is not always treated nicely either but these cameras would surely help to slow down the cases of inappropriate physical force, inappropriate contact between male and female offenders and staff, and possibly show administrators who the instigators are. It's not always the inmate. It's not always the guard. There are two sides to every story and video evidence shows the truth!

These are critical to changing the way people are handled from both sides of the bars.

Shawnee Ray

System impacted persons

Fort Worth, TX

In a cases where it is an inmate's word or reporting of an incident vs a correctional officer's word, the officer is ALWAYS believed.

Body cameras would hold correctional officers accountable for their actions so truth can prevail.

Marci Marie Simmons

Lioness, Statewide Leadership Council, Self

Weatherford, TX

I am for this bill. I'm previously incarcerated. During my ten years in TDCJ I witnessed officers abusing their power on multiple levels, some having been provoked by inmates and others just blatantly abusing their authority. I've seen officers spray inmates in the face because the inmate was shouting out their cell door. I've witnessed officers placing contraband in inmates cubicles and then writing disciplinary cases for said contraband. The worst thing I witnessed was when an inmate bucked at an officer. The officer called for help. Several officers responded and subdued the young girl who was still yelling. They then proceeded to physically assault the young lady while she was handcuffed and on her stomach on the ground. The staff and inmates know where the cameras are and where the blind spots are.

Veronica Reyes

Self / unemployed

Victoria, TX

I believe this should definitely be considered as it will help inmates drastically & also protect them from CO's writing bogus cases or even pressing physical harm to an inmate or vice versa. As a former inmate I have witnessed many female inmates hurt, or sent to agg seg for no reason. But per the CO, a case was written & full of lies. I've seen bad medical assistance needed only to be ignored by a CO. There has also been answers taken from inmates over lies & just cause. I also think the free world workers should also wear cams. Especially in the medical areas. If there is anything worse than a cocky CO, it's the medical staff ignoring the obvious & sending people/elderly back to a dorm to only pass later that night. I believe as a former inmate that we do this time to serve our consequences. But why should we have to deal with people of power in such ways as them treating us bad for no reason or even trying to provoke inmates just because they can. I truly hope that it's understood that no matter what one has done or how much time one does, everyone should be respected. Inmates are not animals. Inmates are not there to do their time & also be have to deal with the extra harassment of an officer. They've gone to court. Received a sentence & been judged. It doesn't need to be continued throughout the incarceration. I pray you take this bill into consideration & if or when it's passed, that there are no excuses for anyone to not have in their body cams. Behind those horrible walls, things happens to inmates that not a soul in the free world could imagine. Not one can help. Inmates should be protected. Not ignored or abused.

Brittany Pokorski

Statewide Leadership Council, Lioness, Self

Weatherford, TX

I am for this bill. Officers should be held accountable for their actions. This bill will help maintain a safer environment for both inmates and prison staff.

Mary Rachel Cervantez

Self, teacher

Lubbock, TX

My daughter is serving time and is currently in her 7th year of her sentence. One of the facilities she was housed at during 2019-2021 was Hobby outside of Marlin Texas. This facility has been notorious for guards that abuse the female inmates and guards that have fight clubs using the inmates. Body cameras would help keep inhumane treatment from happening.

Monika Shepherd

Self, I have a loved one incarcerated in TDCJ & I am an Escrow Officer in Parker County
Weatherford, TX

I am for this bill. It is important for the future of our society and safety of our incarcerated loved ones. Our officers wear them, so showed Correctional Officers. Anyone of authority should to be held accountable and have evidence of integrity.

Jon Filbert

Self : accounts
Sanger, TX

This is simply common sense . I have worked corrections and this camera will protect everyone ! The camera don't lie!

Dora Gibson

Self
Elkhart, TX

In my 3yrs in prison I had a guard run in my cell trying to fight me. I grieve it ,well that grieve just came up missing . My family call and they were told the camera in cell block weren't working that day. If you make these guards accountable for there actions maybe they will think twice about how they treat a inmates. My family want to take actions on this but do to cameras down .there was nothing they could do. If we hold police officer accountable why not correctional officer. Why not is my question I'll

Lauren Winn

Self
Fort Worth, TX

I am for this bill. This bill would make our prisons safer for the people that work there and the people that live there.

Patricia Ray, Ms.

Self
Weatherford, TX

Body cameras woulyprovide some protection for inmates and guards alike. Not all guards are decent.

Gerald Ray

Incarcerated inmates
Fort Worth, TX

Body cameras are absolutely necessary for officers. They must be held accountable table for their performance and there must be oversight on all aspects.

Chris Sederburg

Self
Mesquite, TX

They should all
Have body cameras and be held accountable it should never just be the person in powers word against an inmate. Inmate stands no chance

Mandi Zapata

Lioness Justice Impacted Women's Alliance
Round Rock, TX

I am in support of this bill. This is about accountability and structural. Body cams not only protect the officers and employees but also the inmates who get lied about and have no support against injustice within the system.

Chanel Jones-Washington

Self / Ex felon

Killeen, TX

This definitely should be required because I have witnessed several correctional officers misuse their position to abuse inmates and not just physically abuse by hitting or choking or slamming on the head. Sexually abusing inmates as well. This way everyone is protected the officer and the offender. Because you also have inmates that lie on officers so if that camera is on it will not show anything but truth.

Austin Winn

Self

San Marcus, TX

I support this bill. My mom was incarcerated for over ten years. She would have been much safer had the officers been wearing body cams. It would also reduce the amount of contraband brought into the prisons by officers.

Johnny Buchanan

Self

San Marcus, TX

I'm in support of this bill. Body cams would hold officers accountable for their actions.

Jake Tyler Winn

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I support this bill. All officers should be held accountable by wearing body cameras including correctional officers.

Taylor Trevino

self (organizer)

Austin, TX

I urge all Representatives to support this bill to ensure both fair and humane treatment of those who are incarcerated and accountability on behalf of correctional officers.

Dawn Runyon, Bd of Directors/Grants,Fundraising,Programs

Texas C.U.R.E., Inc.

Magnolia, TX

I'm in support of HB1524 100% because it just makes good sense period to have this in place to protects both sides of the cameras lense!