

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Corrections

For HB 3464

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Hearing Date: April 9, 2025 8:00 AM

Annie Dennis

self

Gorman, TX

Addiction has devastated my family for generations. It's more than a choice—it's a curse that continues to be passed down when trauma is ignored and treatment is denied. All who are smuggling in the drugs need not only punishment but they need treatment. This is why I support Texas House Bill 3464, which calls for stricter punishments for anyone caught bringing drugs into a prison setting. We MUST stop the supply. But we must also recognize that punishment alone is not the answer.

Marsha Harris

Self-Semi Retired-Small Business Owner

Corpus Christi, TX

Hello. My name is Marsha Harris. I am for HB3464. I am representing myself, a citizen of Texas. I am interested in this house bill because I am working toward prison reform. TDCJ's mission is to provide public safety by housing persons convicted of a crime and to rehabilitate persons incarcerated so that upon release they will not be a threat to the safety of the community they are released into and be a better person than how they entered into the system. TDCJ staff should be held to a higher standard than an ordinary citizen and when they bring drugs into the institution they are causing potential harm to our communities, the inmate and other staff members and should be held criminally liable. This is a disgrace. Our nation has been in a drug crisis for some time now and for employees of a facility that oversees inmates to participate in this drug crisis is abhorrent. Inmates are dying. I would like to say this again, inmates are dying. TDCJ prospective employees should be required to have personality testing and psychological testing to determine if they are a good fit for their position and to discover any character defects that would jeopardize the unit, the staff, the inmates and eventually our communities. Bringing drugs into a prison should be dealt with for what it is, a crime. All persons that enter the units should be searched by reliable means that would detect any drug whether that is a dog or a machine. This should be protocol for every person from visitors to vendors to Wardens. Everyone. I have been told the border patrol have hundreds of detecting machines in storage that could be used. Someone needs to check on this. It is my understanding that dogs that are on units are left in kennels and not used to search people coming in the unit. It is the duty of our elected officials to guarantee to the voters that they will enact laws that will protect the State of Texas. I hope to see this happen this session.

Randy Purham, SFC (RET)

Self - Consultant

Austin, TX

Good morning, Chair and Members of this Committee, my name is Randy Purham, I serve as a member of the State Republican Executive Committee (SREC) for Senate District 21, and President and Co-Founder of Urban Conservative Culture Association (UCCA), and I am testifying for myself. HB 3464 is a tremendously important bill that enhances not only the penalties for something that should be obvious - don't bring contraband - especially drugs to where you work, especially a prison where you work; but sends a clear message to TDCJ employees that they too will share a cell with those they choose to supply. Oversight in this regard should have been something codified into law a long time ago, but something commonsense did not prevail for some apparently, so thank you to Representative Meza for fixing this. I hear on countless occasions from close friends of mine that work for TDCJ of someone getting caught bringing K2 or other paraphernalia into the prison; or of stories of inmates magically found high and having to be rushed to the hospital or hit with NARCAN because of near overdoses. These kinds of instances, while preventable and unfortunate, should not be something taken lightly and excusable because of a lack of law surrounding the consequences of these types of actions. I encourage all members of this committee to support and pass this bill out. Thank you.

Ashleen Gaddy

The Texas Prison Transparency Project

Newark, TX

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in strong support of House Bill 3465, a necessary measure that addresses the serious and ongoing problem of contraband in Texas prisons.

Contraband—including drugs, cell phones, and weapons—has long been a major contributor to violence, corruption, and addiction within correctional facilities. While existing policies penalize certain individuals, HB 3465 appropriately ensures that all persons introducing contraband—staff, volunteers, visitors, and inmates—are subject to equal accountability and legal consequences. This is critical. Any system that disproportionately targets incarcerated individuals while overlooking the roles of others fosters mistrust, endangers safety, and erodes the integrity of our criminal justice system.

TDCJ must be held legally accountable to report all incidents of contraband introduction to the appropriate county district attorney's office for prosecution. Without mandatory reporting, many incidents are either quietly handled internally or ignored, enabling cycles of corruption and further crime. This bill promotes transparency and provides a clear pathway to justice.

Moreover, I applaud the inclusion of intensive addiction treatment as a mandatory part of sentencing for any individual convicted of introducing contraband. In many cases, drug trafficking within prisons is a symptom of untreated addiction—whether among staff or incarcerated individuals. True public safety and rehabilitation must include access to evidence-based treatment and recovery services. It is not enough to punish; we must also address the root causes of behavior.

As the founder of the Texas Prison Transparency Project and an advocate for both incarcerated individuals and correctional staff, I have witnessed firsthand the devastating impact of unregulated contraband flow. It threatens lives, fuels organized crime, undermines staff morale, and sabotages any chance of true rehabilitation.

HB 3465 is a balanced and forward-thinking step toward restoring accountability, safety, and justice in our prison system. I urge this committee to vote in favor of this bill and support its swift passage.