



Ana Yáñez-Correa  
Executive Director  
tel 512.441.8123  
cell 512.587.7010  
info@criminaljusticecoalition.org  
www.criminaljusticecoalition.org

FACT SHEET

## **USE MEDICAL RELEASE FOR SMART PAROLE**

**EXPANDING THE ALLOWANCE OF MEDICALLY SUPERVISED RELEASE TO INCLUDE CERTAIN OFFENDERS WHO NO LONGER POSE A THREAT TO SOCIETY WILL FINANCIALLY RELIEVE THE STATE**

### **WHAT DOES H.B. 2611 DO?**

H.B. 2611 would expand the allowance of medically supervised release to include certain 3g and sex offenders who no longer pose a threat to society. 3g offenders would have to be elderly, physically disabled, mentally ill, terminally ill, mentally retarded, or having a condition requiring long-term care; registered sex offenders would have to be in a comatose or near-vegetative state. Released inmates could potentially be submitted to electronic monitoring.

### **ELDERLY INMATES ARE A RAPIDLY GROWING SEGMENT OF TDCJ'S PRISON POPULATION.**

There are currently 4,110 individuals over the age of 60 under institutional supervision in TDCJ, comprising just 2.7% of the total population. However, these individuals are the fastest growing segment of the prison population: the number of inmates 55 or older is increasing at a rate of 11% annually, versus 1% for the general population.

### **ELDERLY INMATES REPRESENT THE LOWEST THREAT TO PUBLIC SAFETY IF RELEASED.**

Inmates over 50 years of age were 3.7 times less likely to recidivate than those under 21, according to a U.S. Sentencing Commission study in 2004. Arrest rates for violent crime among individuals over 50 are lower than those of 10-12 year olds, at less than 1%; arrest rates for individuals 17-19 were up to 12 times as much.

### **HOUSING ELDERLY INMATES WHO PRESENT A LOW THREAT TO PUBLIC SAFETY IS AN ENORMOUS COST TO TEXAS.**

Texas prisons are critically overcrowded and yet the State is housing incarcerated inmates that represent the lowest threat to public safety if released. Inmates over 55 years of age require approximately \$22 per capita per day in healthcare costs, compared to an average cost of \$7.66 for the general prison population. These low-risk inmates cost the state nearly \$80 million each year.

### **H.B. 2611 WOULD SAVE THE STATE MONEY.**

By releasing non-dangerous individuals onto medically supervised parole, the State can save money on prison healthcare costs while also making room for younger, more dangerous offenders. Medically paroled offenders would be able to seek healthcare from federal or private sources, resulting in a positive fiscal impact on the state budget.

Providing electronic monitoring devices for inmates on medically-recommended parole would cost the State between \$5 to \$25 per offender per day, compared to \$66 per day to incarcerate and provide healthcare to these inmates.