

Review successful probationers for early discharge.

Texas should focus its criminal justice spending on violent people!

Currently, adults on probation in Texas have an early discharge date (one-third of the term or two years, whichever is less), but it usually passes unnoticed. **The Legislature** should require the court to review successful probationers' cases on their early discharge date and consider granting early discharge.

Non-violent offenders need positive incentives and should be able to earn their rights back and become responsible citizens. Pro-family policies strengthen the family, reserve expensive prison space for violent offenders, and support nonviolent offenders in the community so they can provide for their families materially and emotionally. Clear evidence shows that low-risk offenders should not be on probation more than two years if they have met certain, well-specified conditions.

Offenders on probation in Texas receive the longest probation terms in the nation — more than six years, compared to an average of two nationally. Texas has nearly 240,000 adult felons under probation supervision. This is more per capita than any other state, but these probationers are supervised in a system that is under-funded and ineffective because resources are stretched too thin monitoring people who should have been discharged.

Incarcerating revoked probationers will cost Texas taxpayers over \$100 million in the next biennium. Nearly half of the Texans who have their probation revoked have passed their early release date. More than 300 Texans per month enter prison because their probation was revoked on technical violations after their early release date. These probationers risk revocation toward the end of their terms for not following one of countless administrative rules. Reducing probation terms for successful probationers would reduce the probation population and allow for better supervision.

It's time to be tough and smart about crime prevention in Texas