



CELIA ISRAEL

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • DISTRICT 50

June 3, 2015

Fellow Texan,

Thank you for contacting our Capitol office regarding criminal justice and the humane treatment of incarcerated Texans. Although many needed efforts to establish the rights of Texas prisoners failed to move this session, there were several successful efforts as well. Here is a rundown of these bills that have been sent to the Governor:

- HB 1083 requires the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to perform a mental health assessment of an inmate before confining them to administrative segregation. Placing mentally ill prisoners into solitary confinement is cruel. I was thrilled to see this bill pass the House unanimously.
- HB 549 forbids county jails from limiting prisoner visitation for disciplinary reasons and requires in-person visitation options, passed the House and the Senate. I was proud to stand up for inmate families and support this bill.
- HB 48 creates the Timothy Cole Exoneration Review Commission, which will work to review overturned wrongful convictions of innocent Texans. I was proud to stand with the rest of my colleagues on such an important initiative.
- HB 1140, one of my efforts this session, brings greater accountability and transparency around pregnant inmate care. We have heard horrifying anecdotes of mistreatment of pregnant inmates, and this legislation will get to the bottom of what is really happening in our county jails.

There is so much more work to be done to establish the rights of the accused and incarcerated, but we can be proud of the genuine progress made this session .

Feel free to visit my website at <http://www.house.state.tx.us/members/member-page/?district=50>, if you have an interest in other issues. Check out our newsletter tab where we break down many of the issues we covered this session.

Do not hesitate to contact my office at (512) 463-0821 if you ever need anything, or if you would like to receive additional updates. I serve on both the Transportation and Elections committees, and our office is always available to help you on other state issues you may need help with. Please know that my office is your office, as the Capitol belongs to the people of Texas.

Sinceramente,

THANK YOU!
- C.

Celia Israel
Texas State Representative, HD 50

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