



Texas Inmate Families Association
Strengthening families through support, education
and advocacy

A Smarter Approach to Parole Reform in Texas

Work Time Credit for 3(g) Offenders – HB 2120 by Senfronia Thompson

Our criminal justice system should keep communities safe, hold people accountable, and treat everyone fairly. And in order for our system to do a good job, it must be cost-effective by using our taxpayer dollars and public resources wisely, in an evidence-based rather than fear-based manner.

Unfortunately, our system today does a better job of punishing people than promoting rehabilitation and reentry – particularly for 3(g) crimes. We must move towards a criminal justice system that uses all of the tools in the toolbox to strengthen families and communities so that people who have committed crimes can become productive members of our communities.

We need to recognize that the best way to promote public safety is to provide opportunities for rehabilitation. One tool, work time credit towards parole eligibility for people who committed 3(g) offenses, would allow time credit in exchange for participation in drug and mental health counseling, job training, work, and other education programs.

The bill to grant work time credit is a small step in the right direction. It would incentivize participation in programming and work thereby promoting positive behavior and strengthening skills and ethics. Because the parole board maintains discretion for parole, this only gives an opportunity for parole review to come sooner based on participation.

***A bill:** Giving credit for diligent participation in educational, vocational, treatment, and work programs is beneficial. Participation in these programs improves safety in the prisons and enhances public safety by increasing the likelihood that people who will be returning to our communities will have the skills to stay out of trouble and become productive members of our communities.*

When someone commits a serious crime, they should be held accountable. But excessive, punitive sentences aren't making us any safer and they're wasting money. Work time credit would be a step that can be taken towards meaningful reform, incentivizing rehabilitation and bringing hope to those who are affected by incarceration.

We ask for your support on this bill. Work time credit will help Texas **reduce the corrections budget burden by millions** and these dollars can then be invested in programs that reduce recidivism, help build safer communities and give hope to families.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____