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Texas Criminal Justice Coalition Provides Legislative Update as Veto Period Ends

TCJC celebrates new laws, highlights areas where progress is still needed

AUSTIN, TX – Today, after the official end of Governor Abbott’s veto period, the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition (TCJC) provided an update on the policies that will help to decarcerate the nation’s largest prison population, improve opportunities to divert people into programs and services that will have better outcomes, and help communities thrive statewide.

Over the past 20 days, TCJC has [tracked](#) the nearly 90 criminal justice bills on the Governor’s docket, providing daily updates to advocates and supporters. The vast majority of those bills—including some of TCJC’s top policy priorities for the session—have now become Texas law.

TCJC Executive Director **Leah Pinney** released the following statement:

“We are immensely proud of the gains that TCJC and our allies have achieved this legislative session. Our ‘Justice for Women’ campaign was a resounding success, leading to new laws that will positively impact thousands of system-involved women across the state. We supported increased drug and mental health services in the community, which will divert people out of the justice system. We fought for a new law that will expand access to occupational licenses for people with a conviction, helping hardworking Texans reenter their communities. And after years of working to repeal the harmful Driver Responsibility Program, it was finally abolished.

“But our work is far from done. We know that Texas still has far to go to safely shrink the youth and adult justice systems, freeing resources to more effectively meet the need for treatment and rehabilitative services in the community. Furthermore, we must continue to fight to reduce inequity and racial disparities and provide help for people seeking to overcome past justice system involvement. We’ll be working on those issues, and more, over the next 18 months.”

Later this summer, TCJC will release an in-depth guide to youth and adult justice legislation that passed into law.

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The Texas Criminal Justice Coalition (TCJC) advances solutions and builds coalitions to reduce mass incarceration and foster safer Texas communities. To learn more about TCJC, visit www.TexasCJC.org.