
Racial Profiling Doesn't Make Us Safer **Oppose SB 2**

Dear Chairman Birdwell and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sarah Reyes; I am a Policy Analyst for the Texas Center for Justice and Equity (TCJE). TCJE is a nonprofit organization that engages in state and local policy advocacy throughout Texas to advance safe decarceration practices and promote overall community wellbeing. We are submitting testimony in **opposition** to SB 2.

SB 2 is an inherently racist and feelings-based piece of legislation. The response to the humanitarian crisis along our southern border has been nothing short of inhumane and unnecessarily cruel. The incarceration of individuals who are seeking a new home only causes harm, expanding our already-bloated prison system while doing nothing to address people's underlying needs.

Incarceration is not only an ineffective solution to the humanitarian emergency, but it is a costly one as well. Per the bill's fiscal note, the anticipated costs to Texas taxpayers "cannot be determined due to the lack of data to estimate the prevalence of conduct outlined in the bill's provisions that would be subject to criminal penalties." In other words, Texas lawmakers cannot know the full impact of this bill but will simply be passing on costs to Texas families for a policy rooted in hate – rather than using taxpayer dollars to invest in a humanitarian infrastructure that is evidence-based, that would benefit affected regions, and that would allow migrants to be welcomed by state and federal officials with dignity.

Instead, we will see an increase in racial profiling in these communities. This bill would essentially allow any state officer to arrest a person they think fits the "profile" of an unlawful immigrant, which will predominately affect people of color and lead to an increase in unnecessary arrests and rights violations among migrants and resident Texans as well.

Incarceration has not proven to be the answer to the humanitarian crisis at the border, nor will it ever be. SB 2 is an ineffective way to address the underlying reasons that people seek shelter in Texas. We must begin to treat people in need with compassion and dignity, not cages.