

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 5, 2019 Contact: Jay Jenkins, Harris County Project Attorney Cell: (515) 229-6928 Email: jjenkins@texascjc.org

## Community Advocacy Group Opposes Harris County District Attorney's Budget Request for 102 Additional Prosecutors

**HOUSTON, TX** – The Texas Criminal Justice Coalition (TCJC), a nonpartisan advocacy organization focused on building coalitions and advancing solutions to end mass incarceration in Texas, joins with others to oppose Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg's budget request to fund 102 new prosecutors. TCJC urges county officials to further examine the request for more funding.

The District Attorney's Office is already slated for a \$5 million increase in the coming year, in addition to this new request to fund over 100 new prosecutors, raising concerns among public safety advocates about whether District Attorney Ogg has fully considered the budget implications.

"We don't want taxpayers to foot the bill for something that seems likely to further overcrowd our justice system while cutting into potential funding for other critical services, like mental health or substance use treatment, that can actually prevent arrest, prosecution, and incarceration," said TCJC's Jay Jenkins. "Additionally, we've seen zero evidence that this allocation of funds will enhance public safety."

To learn more about the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition, visit <u>www.TexasCJC.org</u>.

###