

# REUNITE TEXAS FAMILIES

Reduce the burden on Texas' foster care system and improve outcomes for children by creating a pathway to reinstate parental rights

## HB 2926

Full fact sheet and citations available from Texas Criminal Justice Coalition at [bit.ly/3ePrfuM](http://bit.ly/3ePrfuM)

Children are the hidden victims of a state that relies too heavily on incarceration. When the state removes a child from a parent, the parent has 12 months to create a stable environment to welcome the child back into the home. Some parents are unable to meet these conditions solely as a result of incarceration. Because 81 percent of incarcerated women in Texas are mothers, the termination of parental rights is a common unintended consequence of incarceration.



22 other states already allow for reinstatement of parental rights for those whose rights were terminated as a result of incarceration.



# 1,200

Number of children who age out of the foster care system every year in Texas

# 41

Percent of emancipated youth who spend time in jail within 6 months of leaving the foster care system

# 5,000

Number of children separated from parents whose rights were terminated in 2018

**Texas can create a pathway to family reunification for children whose parents have experienced incarceration.**

Support HB 2926 in Senate State Affairs on May 17, 2021.

HB 2926 will create a clear and accessible path to family reunification for parents who can demonstrate that they have done the work necessary to provide for the best interests of their children.

Family reunification after incarceration reduces recidivism rates for mothers. In fact, research shows that family is the most important factor in helping formerly incarcerated individuals stay out of jail or prison.

Creating a path to reunification has the potential to save taxpayer dollars. The burden facing the foster care system could be lifted by allowing children to return to safe and stable homes following a parent's reentry.

