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**Letter to Texas Board of Criminal Justice Chairman: Inspect 2 Protect
“Creates a Barrier to Vital Support Networks”**

*Advocates Stress that Rule Is Detrimental to Emotional, Financial Wellbeing of
Incarcerated People and Families*

AUSTIN, TX — Today, a group of advocates, organizations, and system-impacted individuals released a [letter](#) sent to Texas Board of Criminal Justice Chairman Patrick O’Daniel, which highlights the negative impacts of the “Inspect 2 Protect” policy enacted at Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) facilities last year. The letter—which received 29 signatures from local, state, and national groups—reiterates previous advocate requests for the policy to be reconsidered.

“We are united in our deep concern that some Inspect 2 Protect program policies have been detrimental and counterproductive to the rehabilitation efforts of incarcerated individuals,” the letter reads. “Furthermore, these policies have placed additional financial and emotional burdens on both incarcerated individuals and their community of supporters in free society. Although TDCJ has stated that, ‘These policy revisions are not punitive,’ the reality of the situation is that for us (families, advocates, nonprofits, and incarcerated individuals), they are punitive.”

Advocates named three specific areas for reconsideration within the Inspect 2 Protect policy:

1. Written mail coming into the unit: “Offenders may not receive greeting cards of any kind.”
2. Electronic messages: “TDCJ encourages electronic messaging to reduce the entrance of contraband.”
3. Money being sent into the units: “Only persons on an offender’s visitation or OTS call lists may deposit funds or make Ecomm transactions.”

For each of these areas, advocates describe their concerns and propose solutions that would provide dignity for incarcerated people without jeopardizing safety. The signers, many of whom have personal or family experience with incarceration, emphasize the serious implications of Inspect 2 Protect, particularly during a pandemic in which visitation has been significantly decreased.

This letter follows a [similar advocate request](#) sent to Chairman O’Daniel just under one year ago, before the Texas Board of Criminal Justice voted to approve the policy. The Board will meet [this week](#) to hear public comments on this and other issues. [Read the full letter here.](#)

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