NEW REPORT HIGHLIGHTS ISSUES FACING WOMEN IN TEXAS' CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM
*Texas Criminal Justice Coalition Calls for Reforms to Treat Women with Dignity and
Remove Barriers to Family Unity in Texas Prisons and Jails*

AUSTIN, TX (April 24, 2018) — The Texas Criminal Justice Coalition, a nonpartisan, nonprofit advocacy organization focused on adult and youth justice policy reform, released its second report today on women in Texas prisons and jails. *An Unsupported Population: The Treatment of Women in Texas' Criminal Justice System* explores the unique issues facing women impacted by the criminal justice system, including challenges within Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) facilities, and it makes recommendations for programs and policies that treat women with dignity and increase the likelihood that they can successfully rejoin their families and communities.

"There are significant issues facing women who are incarcerated in Texas prisons and jails," said Lindsey Linder, Policy Attorney at the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition and the report's author. "Not only are these women unsupported by the current system, but they are continually being re-victimized by policies and practices that fail to account for their needs."

Currently, more than 12,000 women are incarcerated in Texas' state corrections system, 64 percent for a nonviolent offense. A staggering 81 percent of incarcerated women are mothers.

The report, which includes the findings of a survey of more than 430 women incarcerated in Texas prisons, reveals that the majority of women in TDCJ have been identified as suffering from a substance abuse disorder; that nearly half of the women surveyed never see their children; that women commonly experience a lack of access to basic hygiene items; and that women have far more limited access to degree plans, certifications, and technical courses than incarcerated men.

The Texas Criminal Justice Coalition urges policymakers to adopt the report's recommendations, which emphasize gender-specific programming, improved conditions of confinement, strategies to increase family unity, and better preparation for the release from incarceration. These improvements will hold women accountable while helping them heal and increase the likelihood that they can successfully transition back to their families and communities—essential steps to improve public safety and reduce costs associated with incarceration.

"On behalf of the House Committee on Corrections, I commend the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition's work on the challenge involved with the incarceration of women," said State Representative James White, Chairman of the House Corrections Committee. "Over the last several decades, Texas has experienced substantial increases in female incarceration. This is unacceptable for Texas families and public safety. This report provides every stakeholder with the tools necessary to uplift Texas women and improve community safety."

An Unsupported Population: The Treatment of Women in Texas' Criminal Justice System is part two of a two-part report series. The first report, *A Growing Population: The Surge of Women into Texas' Criminal Justice System,* was released in March and examined the rise in the number of women in Texas' justice system. *For a copy of both reports, visit www.TexasCJC.org/womens-justice.*

About the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition
The Texas Criminal Justice Coalition is a nonpartisan, nonprofit advocacy organization focused primarily on adult and youth justice policy reform at the state and county level. With a commitment to strengthening families and communities across Texas, the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition brings expertise and diverse perspectives to identify and advance solutions that help Texas spend money responsibly and ensure incarceration is rare and the last response after other, more appropriate interventions have been tried and have failed. To learn more, visit www.texascjc.org.

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