



SUPPORT SECOND LOOK

HB 256
SB 155

Kids in Texas who are convicted of certain crimes are often given lengthy prison sentences with **no opportunity for parole for up to 40 years.**

In fact, **kids as young as 14** can be “certified” to stand trial as adults.

And many kids are sentenced under the “law of parties,” which forces them to be held **criminally responsible for the conduct of another person.**

In 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court recognized that it is **unconstitutional** to deny a young person a chance at rehabilitation. Since then, many states have begun moving away from extreme sentencing for youth.

WE NEED TO GIVE PEOPLE A REAL PATH TO REDEMPTION

Texas should join states like Nevada, North Dakota, and West Virginia in providing people an earlier opportunity for a parole hearing – one focused on the extent to which they have successfully rehabilitated and matured.

This “Second Look” at parole eligibility will still hold young people accountable but encourage them to focus on their rehabilitation and show why they merit a second chance.

This reform can also save taxpayer dollars. It costs \$2.5 million to incarcerate one juvenile for life – an enormous expense considering most young people are rehabilitated long before their 40-year parole eligibility date.

Most importantly, this reform will allow people to fulfill their true potential and become contributing members of our Texas communities.

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