

## Save Texas Prison Chaplaincy – Up-Date #30 – New Chaplaincy Statistics

Friends –

### Save Chaplaincy Update #30

Friends, according to my Senator Robert Nichols' distribution today, he said, "Now that the Senate has approved its version of House Bill 1, it goes back to the House. The House may choose to either agree with the Senate changes or go to conference. In conference, select members from each chamber will negotiate the \$12 billion dollar differences between the two budgets. The compromise must then be approved by both the House and the Senate before heading to Governor Perry who may veto it, approve it, or let it lapse into law." I believe prison chaplaincy is fully funded in that version too, at 2010 funding, which will mean a small loss, but no loss of chaplains. I am waiting for confirmation of that.

Pray all goes well.

### Save Chaplaincy – Update #30a – Monies Past and Present Versions of SB-1

**The 2-16-11 version** had the line item **TREATMENT SERVICES C.2.4** funded as follows for 2012-13 biennium at **\$32,769,450 (\$5,742,465 cut) (cut 14.9%)** – The Appropriations Bill, as Introduced (2-16-11), includes a reduction of \$5.7 million in General Revenue Funds, \$0.1 million in Federal Funds, and 74.7 FTEs (cut 74.7 positions) to reduce funding for reentry transitional coordinators added in the Eighty-first Legislature, **chaplains**, classification case.

Apparently up to TDCJ what to cut. *Unlike HB 1 that has line item just for chaplains.* See 2-16-11 summary on page 7 of

[www.lbb.state.tx.us/Senate\\_Finance/SFC\\_Summary\\_Recs/Agency%20696.pdf](http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/Senate_Finance/SFC_Summary_Recs/Agency%20696.pdf).

**Current version** going back to the House Monday 5-9-11 has **C.2.4. Strategy: TREATMENT SERVICES** funded **\$38,043,788** for 2012-13 biennium as seen on page 517 at [www.lbb.state.tx.us/Bill\\_82/3\\_Senate/prtHB1\\_2011\\_Senate\\_Full.pdf](http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/Bill_82/3_Senate/prtHB1_2011_Senate_Full.pdf). Which could, might, possibly, *prayerfully* mean that monies were found for chaplaincy.

### Save Chaplaincy Update #30b – TDCJ Chaplaincy Stats for FY2010

While it appears TDCJ Chaplaincy is OK for now, let's not forget that in January the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) did Zero Funded, and while it might not be apparent, we should be reminded that the LLB is made up of key legislators *in communication* with state agencies. No significant statistics have been published on TDCJ chaplaincy for the last 15 years, and none to speak of to the Texas Board of Criminal Justice, and that absence likely played a role in the Zero Funding. I know for CERTAIN that several TDCJ leaders do NOT want Chaplaincy cut. Yet, one key argument heard for two months was that "Volunteers could do it all" by some in Austin, and it was the volunteers themselves (mostly Christian) who said, "No, we cannot." Constituents connected, and many of you on this list have networks that made *the* difference.

Also ... no small affair ... Frank Graham and son played a huge role in getting the "Cost Savings" issue front and center.

Since February when I first initiated Open Records Requests on Chaplaincy Data, having received all and many clarifications, here are the results of perhaps 50 exchanges. On the Program Stats, one will notice that the key on the left is still not complete, but I suspect I shall have the last item in hand before long. While this still needs an executive summary, those

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interested in what 100 TDCJ Staff Chaplains do, facilitate, and lead ... you can see it here. There is no place in the last ten-twenty years where this has been published, not the raw data or any meaningful summary. Also, I have been pursuing the same from California, Florida, New York, and the Feds ... only California has responded so far, and as you might expect, they do not keep the kind of detailed records that Texas keeps. And hard to justify, but it *appears* they hire fulltime chaplains for the FOUR major faith groups of Christian, Jew, Islam, and American Indian, though the latter three are in a super minority (see TDCJ faith percentages below). These have been placed on the [Save Chaplaincy](#) web site, and will be updated as they are fine tuned ...

**NEW DATA > from numerous Open Records Requests of Official TDCJ Data - an executive summary in the works**

[Click here > FY2010 Faith Percentages in TDCJ](#) ~ from all prisoners' faith of record, mostly Christian

[Click here > FY2010 Chaplaincy Statistics in TDCJ](#) ~ from monthly reports by Chaplains on their work and facilitation of volunteer work

[Click here > FY2010 Program Statistics in TDCJ](#) ~ from many programs by volunteers, mostly Christian, facilitated by Chaplains

I have attached the files for your own records ... and I welcome any insight any person might have in construction of a first-rate executive summary, likely the last I will ever do.

That with the documented [Chaplaincy Cost Saving](#) – the flyer we have been sharing – leaves no doubt as to the contribution of that small band, a mere 110 staff chaplains, facilitating 19,000 religious volunteers, mostly Christian. Also, a question has arisen on the accuracy of the Faith Percentages, that is the Muslims at 7%, but those are the facts for anyone willing to pursue them. Any Texas, any US citizen can ask for public data. As soon as I get the up-to-date directory-key for the program stats, I will complete that analysis and work on a kind of executive summary highlighting the good work of 110 staff chaplains, similar to and now can be compared with the [2000 Chaplaincy Summary](#) that was pulled from and can still be compared with [Chaplaincy Statistics FY2004](#) ~ [FY 2002](#) ~ [FY 2001](#) ~ [FY 2000](#) ~ [FY 1999](#) ~ [FY 1998](#). For those interested, there is the [Chaplaincy Audit Info- Raw Data - 2001](#) that still needs analysis.

Cheers ... there is enough data here to not only justify state Prison Chaplaincy, but emphasize the cost savings, compared to any other entity..

Sincerely, Mike

cc: Bryan Collier, Jerry Madden, James White

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