

From: [Texas Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)
Date: Wednesday, November 13, 2024 10:09:39 PM

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Submitted by: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Choose the agency that you would like to provide input about
[Texas Department of Criminal Justice](#)

Public Comments

1

First Name

Julie

Last Name

Sichi

Email

City

Converse

State

Texas

Your Comments or Concerns

While there are many things that could be reformed about the TDCJ, one of the most pressing issues is the lack of air conditioning in many of the state prisons. I have a sister who has battled drug addiction for many years and as a result of a burglary conviction, was sent to Plane State in 2020. Neither she nor I dispute that she deserved her sentence, because she broke the law. What we do dispute are the horrific conditions in a metal and cinderblock facility in the extreme heat of a Texas summer. The 8th amendment prohibits cruel and unusual punishment and it is my considered opinion that forcing human beings to live in temperatures that can be upwards of 100 degrees, is cruel and unusual. All inmates suffer terribly and those with mental health issues suffer most of all. The stories that my sister told me on the occasions when she was able to call me during Covid were heartbreaking. One in particular really got to me. A woman with mental health problems and a history of seizures, suffered a seizure in the heat and fell out of her bed. The guards came and took her to an air conditioned room until the seizure passed. Then they took her right back to the sweltering dorm. If that is not a violation of the 8th amendment, I don't know what is. I am very certain that the great state of Texas can find the funding to install air conditioning in all of the prisons. It is one thing to be tough on crime and another to be inhumane. They may be criminals, but the inmates in our prisons are also fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, grandparents, brothers,

and sisters. Do they not deserve our compassion? At the very least, do they not deserve to be treated humanely? I propose that any member of the state legislature or whoever gets to decide where funds are allocated, spend 10 minutes sitting in his or her car in a summer month with the A/C turned off. Then imagine that he or she has a family member in a Texas prison before turning the A/C back on.

Your Proposed Solution

The Texas legislature shall approve funding to install air conditioning in every state prison facility and that this shall be completed before June 2025.

My Comments Will Be Made Public

Yes