



**Representative Garnet F. Coleman**  
**Texas House of Representatives**  
**District 147 • Fax (713) 463-1260 • Phone (512) 463-0524**

## PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 29, 2019

**Contact: Cara Gustafson**

512.463.0524

### **Representative Coleman Joins House Criminal Justice Reform Caucus**

Houston—On Friday, July 19th, Representative Garnet Coleman was announced as a founding member in the newly formed House Criminal Justice Reform Caucus.

The caucus will initially be co-chaired by **Representative Joe Moody** (D-El Paso), speaker pro tempore of the House of Representatives, and **Representative Jeff Leach** (R-Plano), who serves as chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence. Its other founding members are a bipartisan group that reads like a Who's Who of the Texas Legislature: **Chair Senfronia Thompson** (D-Houston), **Chair Garnet Coleman** (D-Houston), **Chair James White** (R-Hillister), **Chair Nicole Collier** (D-Fort Worth), **Chair Dade Phelan** (R-Beaumont), **Rep. Todd Hunter** (R-Corpus Christi), **Rep. Matt Krause** (R-Fort Worth), **Rep. Ina Minjarez** (D-San Antonio), **Rep. Briscoe Cain** (R-Deer Park), and **Rep. Jessica González** (D-Dallas).

Representative Coleman has passed key criminal justice reform policies the last few sessions including the Sandra Bland Act, and the passage of HB 4468 from last session that fixes mental health transportation language; strengthens the Texas Commission on Jail Standards oversight of privately operated jails; expands the prisoner safety fund to jails with 288 beds or fewer from 96 beds or fewer; allows for in-kind contributions for healthy community collaboratives and lowers the match amount for rural counties from a dollar for a dollar to a quarter for a dollar; requires jailers to be enrolled in basic training within 90 days of receiving their temporary license; and prevents a temporary jailer from becoming a supervisor. Additionally, Representative Coleman supported efforts that led to the recent Harris County consent decree that will help make Harris County a national model for bail reform.

The caucus will serve as a clearinghouse for criminal justice policy proposals of all kinds but will focus on advancing several key issues. Among the topics the caucus will tackle are drug policy, capital punishment, asset forfeiture, bail bonds, prison conditions, mental health services, and rehabilitation and reentry for offenders. The caucus will work with a wide array of stakeholders at all levels and from all facets of the justice system to ensure state laws reflect the values and protect the rights of all Texans, regardless of race, demographics, or socioeconomic status.

Representative Coleman is available for comment.

####