



AFSCME Texas
Correctional Employees
Local 3807
“We Patrol Texas' Toughest Beat”



April 10, 2015

Greetings,

Mass incarceration and criminalizing substance abuse has negatively impacted millions of Texans. As a veteran criminal justice professional working over two decades in corrections and law enforcement I have personally witnessed the damage the “War on Drugs” had on our communities and the families in them. We don't need to fight wars to solve social problems and self medicating issues steaming from lack of mental health services.

AFSCME Texas Correctional Employees took an unprecedented move by supporting the first closure of a Texas prison in 2011. In 2013 we lead a campaign to close down two more unnecessary prisons. We realize state governments has limited fiscal resources and that expanding the prison industrial complex not only adversely impacts the incarcerated, but the officers as well.

Texas prisons are plagued with serious staffing shortages and violence. If Texas were its own country we would have the highest per capita incarceration rate in the world. More can be done to decrease our prison populations and assist people in need. We are setting ourselves up for failure by waging wars. The war on drugs and the policy of mass incarceration needs to end.

Respectfully,

Lance Lowry
President AFSCME Local 3807