



# EMERGENCY ITEM: BAIL REFORM

**Governor Greg Abbott's # 1 priority is ensuring the safety of Texans. Activist judges have too often set bail at shockingly low amounts, letting repeat offenders back on the streets and endangering the lives of innocent Texans. We must protect Texans and keep criminals behind bars.**

**Governor Abbott has worked with the Texas Legislature to keep dangerous criminals behind bars by imposing tougher standards for setting bail and punishments for violating bond, including:**

- Prohibited criminals charged with a violent offense from being released on a personal bond
- Required bail be set or denied within 48 hours of arrest and that criminal history be considered before setting bail
- Required mandatory training for judges on their duties when setting bail
- Required bond conditions be reported to give law enforcement the ability to apprehend offenders out on bail who are violating court orders
- Created a state jail felony offense for tampering with an electronic monitoring device

**Despite these reforms, activist judges continue to let repeat offenders back on the streets.**

***Many innocent Texans, including Harris County Deputy Constable Omar Ursin, have been murdered by criminals let out on bail from a prior murder charge. Deputy Ursin selflessly put his life on the line every day to protect his fellow Texans, yet he was gunned down picking up dinner for his family by violent criminals he fought to keep off the streets. Texans deserve to be safe in their communities. Lawmakers must choose – support the safety of the citizens they represent, or the criminals who kill them.***

**Texas must keep dangerous criminals behind bars. This session, Governor Abbott will work with the Texas Legislature to pass a constitutional amendment to:**

- Require judges to deny bail for violent offenders
- Require that bail be denied if an offender is accused of capital murder or a sexual offense of a child

**BUILDING A STRONGER TEXAS**