

Save Texas Prison Chaplaincy – Up-Date #29 – Good News

Friends,

As you know, the Texas House of Representatives finished its work and voted to approve HB 1 Sunday night, April 3, 2011. Good News – on the crucial question on Chaplaincy Funding, Texas [BGCT Christian Life Commission](#) Director Suzii Paynter reported that, “Chaplains are there - funded at 2009-2010 levels (\$9m) and the funds were allocated from a \$75 m Tax Amnesty Program (comptroller funded) very secure. Senate bill the strategy may still be at 13% cut as before , so I will check on that. Lots of work ongoing in Senate by various budget subcommittees.” We did it. Still more work in the Senate, but, likely, Chaplaincy will be saved, if not all, then hopefully most.

Let me emphasize that many larger programs are getting cut wholly, and others as much as 25-35%. As mentioned, Chaplaincy was cut by 33% in 2001, though most everyone else only took a 10% cut, though that piece of history played not essential role in this. What is important is that we got out of the gate at the START of the session, networked speedily, and word spread and people – that is, *Constituents* connected. And God worked ... thank God. Many others did not take the jump early, and, a mere three months later, it is too late in the House to do anything, and will be very much harder for any of them in the Senate.

This is a great time to thank your Representative and send a kind word to your Senator.

Chaplaincy is truly a very small budget item for the statistics that Chaplains facilitate and generate (more on that later), and this success was largely accomplished from volunteers and supporters much more than the prison Chaplains themselves – a marvelous and noteworthy thing in itself. We state *Chaplains* have a larger debt to our volunteers than we had before this. Hopefully, we can save most of chaplaincy in Senate too.

Keep the prayers coming. Sincerely, Mike

[Michael G. Maness](#)

[Save Texas Prison Chaplaincy](#)