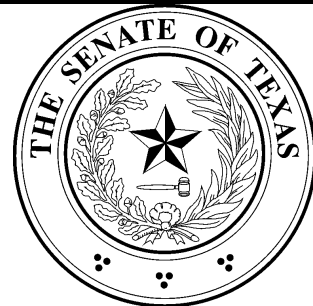


SENATOR
JOHN WHITMIRE
DISTRICT 15
NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Whitmire disgusted at TDCJ Death Row security failures

AUSTIN, Texas -- State Senator John Whitmire (D-Houston) today expressed his frustration to Texas Department of Criminal Justice Executive Director Brad Livingston and Chairman of The Texas Board of Criminal Justice Oliver Bell, at the continuing threats against him and his family from convicted capital murderer Richard Tabler. The ability of a death row inmate to continually author these threats represents a threat to all Texans and our public safety.

"Once again, I must express to you my utter dismay at the level of security that continues to be present at the Polunsky Death Row Unit. If Richard Tabler was a political opponent, I would ignore him, however he is a convicted capital murderer." stated Senator Whitmire.

Since May 29, 2009 death row inmate Richard Tabler has had a letter posted on the internet website of www.Blogginginmates.com in which he states "and Ask Senator Whitmire how Rebecca's health is" and "that just because I'm on death row does not mean that you cannot be gotten to.....or your family".

"I specifically ask how an inmate on death row is allowed to openly send letters out to the public that are designed to intimidate, threaten and retaliate against an elected official or any citizen of this state. I am also appalled that no one within TDCJ has even contacted me concerning this issue," Senator Whitmire continued.

"I understand the challenges of operating the second largest prison system in our nation, but we must respond to these challenges with a sense of urgency and have the will to conquer and overcome the barriers in front of us. The citizens of Texas desire no less than our maximum efforts and will not settle for less than significant sustained successful actions," Senator Whitmire concluded.

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