



Testimony Relating to Department of Corrections Data: HB5217
House Committee on State Government & Elections
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The Economic Progress Institute *supports* Representative Diaz’s HB5217 to require the Department of Corrections to collect additional data from those individuals entering its custody.

To understand whether policy and program proposals and changes are likely to increase or decrease disparities, it is critical to have adequate data.

We think it of particular importance that this bill would require, or at least codify, that such data should be collected *from* individuals themselves, from self-reported identifications rather than as determined or guessed at by administrative personnel.

We would suggest that the bill sponsors and committee also consider whether the bill as currently written is adequate to include collection of ethnicity data, whether the race and/or “nativity (country of origin)” categories encompass ethnicity or will miss ethnicity, for example, for individuals born in the U.S. but identifying as Latino/Latina or as Asian American.

All in all, we would welcome enactment of this legislation.