



# Testimony

## Testimony to the House Corrections Committee on HB 3598

by Marc Levin, Esq.  
Director, Center for  
Effective Justice

The evidence indicates that GPS can lead to higher rates of compliance among probationers, which enhances public safety and saves taxpayers' money.

One of the target populations for this bill is probationers who have had a motion to revoke filed against them. In 2008, there were 12,788 technical revocations from probation to prison. Based on an average prison sentence of 2.5 years, the cost of these technical revocations to Texas taxpayers is \$641 million.

GPS can reduce technical violations and all but end absconding. Some 22 percent of revocations for technical violations are absconders. A Florida study of over 75,000 probationers found GPS virtually eliminates absconding. Currently, 18 percent of Texas probationers abscond.

GPS also reduces new offenses because offenders know they are being watched. The same Florida study found offenders on GPS were 89 to 95 percent less likely to be revoked for a new offense.

GPS also helps ensure that offenders report for any court-ordered treatment.

Finally, the type of GPS contemplated by this pilot program has the crime scene correlation capability. This is where police and probation and parole officers can see if an offender was in an area at the time a crime was reported. 