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THREE CHEERS

Three Cheers is a collection of upbeat letters that inspire readers to think and act positively. Share your own timely story or observation by submitting a "Three Cheers" letter at www.dallasnews.com/sendletters.

1 To opening the discussion on women imprisonment — Re: "Overlooked —As women go to jail in record numbers, who's watching out for their kids? No one," June 25 news story.

I recently read this poignant article about a record number of women being incarcerated and the impact it has on their children. I am personally committed to this cause and feel it's crucial we not only openly discuss these issues, but also find a way to successfully resolve and/or minimize the impact.

During my term as chairman of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice, I was honored with a state prison named after me, the Christina Melton Crain Unit in Gatesville. CMCU is home to approximately 1,607 women, many of whom are mothers or legal guardians. With assistance from organizations like Unlocking DOORS, many of these women will be able to find jobs and raise their families — essentially reducing crime and incarceration rates — creating safer, healthier communities.

Kudos to *The Dallas Morning News* and Cary Aspinwall for opening the discussion around women imprisonment and the impact on their kids.

Christina Melton Crain, Dallas