



RYAN GUILLEN
★
TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 20, 2017

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
COREY.TICKNOR@HOUSE.TEXAS.GOV

REP. GUILLEN BACKS USE OF RAINY DAY FUND

"Time for Texas to Make Use of the Savings Created for Serious Needs"

AUSTIN - After careful consideration, Texas State Representative Ryan Guillen (D-Rural South Texas) believes the legislature should use a portion of the Economic Stabilization Fund (Rainy Day Fund) to address the economic downturn in Texas.

"Challenged with limited income and strained budget resources for critical financial obligations, we must continue to ensure that Texans' needs in education, health care and economic growth are provided for," said Guillen. "Without other viable options on the table, I support using part of the rapidly growing Economic Stabilization Fund."

Given Texas' large funding deficit, the Texas House is considering using money from the Rainy Day Fund. The Rainy Day Fund's balance is the highest it has ever been, and strategically using some of the funds would help mediate the current shortfall.

"The Rainy Day Fund was wisely created for times when we have serious needs. Texas is growing, and to continue that growth, and our prosperity, careful funding in certain encumbered policy areas is necessary," said Guillen.

As a part of the budget process, spending reductions have been proposed in areas such as health care, education, government contracts and economic incentive programs to help balance the budget.

"I feel having a cuts-only approach does not properly address the hardships facing our teacher retirement care and foster care system - to name a few," said the Representative.

Guillen believes the "Rainy Day Funds" should be used where it can solve problems that threaten the life or health of Texans or continued growth of the state.

Examples of these spending areas would include supplementing and updating teacher retirement care, restructuring the foster care system where children are at risk, and helping end the fever tick outbreak facing both the huge Texas cattle industry and the deer hunting industry. The Rainy Day Fund was created to facilitate the state in times of economic downturn, and Guillen believes that time is here and now, during the 85th Legislative Session.

Ryan Guillen serves ten rural South Texas counties in the Texas House of Representatives, including Atascosa, Brooks, Duval, Jim Hogg, Kenedy, La Salle, Live Oak, McMullen, Starr, and Willacy.

###