



RYAN GUILLEN

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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
ALEX.GAUDIO@HOUSE.TEXAS.GOV

GUILLEN FIGHTS FOR TEXAS CHILDREN *Guillen Urges Federal Action on Children Health Insurance Program*

AUSTIN - Representative Ryan Guillen (D - Rural South Texas) has sent a letter to federal Senators and Congressmen encouraging them to renew and fund the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), slated to run out of funding early next year.

"The health of our children is of the utmost importance, and I will do everything I can to fight for them," said Guillen.

CHIP is a federal block-grant program that was created in 1997 to improve health insurance coverage for children and to reduce the rate of children without insurance. In the years since, it has proven incredibly effective. CHIP has lowered the rate of uninsured children in Texas from 16% to 6%, covering almost 400,000 children and expecting mothers. Additionally, almost 250,000 children benefit indirectly from CHIP's Medicaid incentives. In total, CHIP covers about 45% of all children in Texas.

Federal funding for CHIP expired on September 30th, and Texas expects to run out of its remaining CHIP money to fund these necessary medical services at the beginning of 2018. If Congress does not renew and fund the program, thousands of Texas children currently covered by CHIP may lose access to their health coverage. Guillen sent a letter to the federal representatives of his district urging them to renew and fund CHIP.

"CHIP is vital to South Texas families, and we must act now to renew it. I wanted to make sure that our federal representatives know that we cannot let our children fall victim to brinksmanship," said Guillen.

CHIP was first passed in 1997 and adopted by the state of Texas in 1999. The most recent authorization was in 2015. At least one state has already run out of funding for CHIP, and more will soon follow.

Serving ten rural South Texas counties in the Texas House of Representatives, Ryan Guillen is known for his hard work, fierce independence, and relentless efforts for South Texas families. Recently, Capitol Inside called him a "House Bill Machine," and a "one-person assembly line for legislation." Since elected, few other legislators have passed more bills than Guillen. Sign up for updates at ryanguillen.com, facebook.com/representative.guillen, and twitter.com/ryanguillen

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