



RYAN GUILLEN

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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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

GUILLEN CRACKS DOWN ON CYBERBULLYING *S.B. 179 Helps Stop Bullies & Protects Victims*

AUSTIN - Representative Ryan Guillen (D - Rural South Texas) is pleased to announce that S.B. 179 took effect at the start of this month. Guillen was a sponsor of the measure which strengthens anti-cyberbullying measures and helps protect victims of bullying.

"Cyberbullying is the latest front in a fight against bullying at schools. We are taking cyberbullying seriously and working to protect its victims," said Guillen.

Bullying has always plagued our schools, and now it has moved online and off school grounds. S.B. 179, David's Law, named in memory of David Molak, whose experience with cyberbullying led to him taking his own life, confronts cyberbullying by requiring schools to address online harassment in their district policies, even if the bullying is taking place off campus. It will also allow police to unmask online bullies and gives schools the authority to discipline bullies harassing students online.

David's Law also protects victims of cyber bullying - requiring schools to have systems in place to anonymously report bullying and to have counselling available for grief-stricken students. These counselors will be available to mediate disputes between students and foster a more open environment for students to thrive in. Finally, David's Law will also allow civil courts to step in and issue restraining orders or warnings to bullies.

"My heart goes out to the family of David Molak. No parent should have to suffer through the loss of a child - especially in these tragic circumstances," added Guillen.

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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