



RYAN GUILLEN

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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DECEMBER 19, 2017

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

GUILLEN APPLAUDS PROGRESS TOWARDS RESTORING FUNDING FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE

Congress Responds To Guillen And Others' Calls To Action

AUSTIN - Representative Ryan Guillen (D- Rural South Texas) is pleased to announce that in response to intense pressure from around the country, including his office, Congress has allocated \$135 million to make sure that the Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP) in Texas has enough money to continue operating until Congress fully funds the plan sometime early next year.

"All Texans, especially children, should be able to get the medical care they need at a price they can afford, so it is imperative that Congress re-authorize this life-saving and bipartisan program," 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 expected 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 in October urging them to renew and fund CHIP.

"The recent allocation of \$135 million is a great start, and I urge the Texas delegation to fully fund the program as soon as possible," Guillen added.

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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