



RYAN GUILLEN

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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 24, 2018

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

ALEX.GAUDIO@HOUSE.TEXAS.GOV

GUILLEN TO SPEAK AT RIO GRANDE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Guillen Will Give A Legislative Update For The Upcoming 2019 Session

AUSTIN- Representative Ryan Guillen (D- Rural South Texas) is honored to be speaking at the Rio Grande Valley Partnership this Thursday. He will be speaking on issues such as school finance, retired teacher healthcare, the budget, and other concerns for the upcoming 2019 legislative session.

"School finance will be a very important issues during this upcoming legislative session. It is important that we have our teachers and schools equipped with the proper funding to function effectively, " said Guillen. "I have also called on Governor Abbott to hold a special session to address retired teacher healthcare before the new session so we do not have to wait another year to deal with this critical issue."

The Rio Grande Valley Partnership is an organization that seeks to be a catalyst for prosperity in the Rio Grande Valley by unifying stakeholders in the spirit of collaboration and regional progress, and by being an influential advocate for the region.

Representative Guillen is expecting the 86th legislative session in 2019 to be a very influential session for many different stakeholders in South Texas. He expects school finance and accountability to take a prominent role as the state seeks to improve school funding and monitor and improve the new A-F grading system to make sure that rural schools are not unfairly downgraded. Guillen also expects to face a tight budget during the 86th session. Although revenues are up compared to last year, the state has many large bills coming due in 2019 due to budgetary decisions made in past years which he disagreed with. Contract oversight will also potentially play a large role in 2019. In recent months, multiple state contracts have been under fire and invalidated due to lax bidding requirements. A lot of time, attention, and money will also be directed towards Hurricane Harvey recovery. Additionally, the current Speaker of the House, Joe Straus, is retiring and there will be an election to replace him. It is too early to tell who will be the next Speaker, but he or she will play a prominent role in shaping legislation in the 86th session.

"The upcoming session has many challenges, but I look forward to continuing our work to improve the lives of everyone in South Texas," said Guillen. "Together we can make South Texas an even better place to live, work, and raise a family."



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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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