



# RYAN GUILLEN

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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **GUILLEN: WE MUST IMPROVE OUR COURTS AND ACCESS TO LEGAL AID**

*Guillen Prepares For Judiciary And Civil Jurisprudence Meeting*

**AUSTIN-** Ahead of Friday's meeting of the Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence Committee, Representative Ryan Guillen (D- Rural South Texas) stresses the importance of improving the court systems and providing affordable legal representation in South Texas.

**"Our court and legal systems are important to the well-being of South Texans," said Guillen. "Improving the courts will help our communities become safer, more secure, and more educated about their rights as citizens."**

In the public hearing Friday, the committee will address how Hurricane Harvey affected the courts as well as legal aid programs. Millions of Texans were impacted by the storm leaving many in need of legal aid. Families needed legal advice in regard to things like working with FEMA, their insurance companies, and even the school systems, as many children missed multiple days of class. Texans with lower incomes may not be able to afford this necessary legal representation, whether it follows a hurricane or is a result of more common issues, so the committee is also looking at ways to increase affordable legal aid.

The committee will also address the fee structure during civil and criminal matters. Many Texans, including current Texas Supreme Court Justices, contend that legal fees are unnecessarily high and a barrier to justice for many families. The committee will begin identifying fees that may be too high and recommending any necessary changes.

**"It is important we continue to strive for the best in Texas," Guillen stated. "Texas courts and legal systems are an important aspect of daily life, and we must make sure that all South Texans are able to access the justice they serve."**

*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](http://ryanguillen.com), [facebook.com/representative.guillen](https://facebook.com/representative.guillen), and [twitter.com/ryanguillen](https://twitter.com/ryanguillen)*

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