



RYAN GUILLEN

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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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REP. GUILLEN SUPPORTS FORMER OFFENDER REINTEGRATION AND JAIL DIVERSION PROGRAMS

April Designated As Second Chance Month

AUSTIN - Congress voted recently to designate April as "Second Chance" month for reformed former criminal offenders. Representative Ryan Guillen (D- Rural South Texas) has been a strong supporter of legislation that seeks to reintegrate offenders who have served their time and paid their debt to society.

"We need to make sure that the criminal justice system offers a path to reformed offenders to have a second chance," said Guillen. "I have been fighting hard to improve the reintegration of former offenders so they may have the tools to make themselves productive members of society once again."

In his time in office, Guillen has been a strong supporter of jail diversion and reintegration programs. His vote was critical to the passage of SB 1902 and HB 3016, which allow persons convicted of various minor offenses to petition for more nondisclosure rights in order to help them secure jobs and a stable life. He also helped create a mental health jail diversion program which assisted members of the community with mental health issues instead of criminalizing them.

Representative Guillen also authored HB 27, which allows persons with low level misdemeanors to pay fines in intervals preventing further jail time for failure to pay fines, and he has also supported measures to provide the indigent with community service alternatives to fines that they can not afford to pay.

"Former offenders strive to improve themselves and earn an honest second chance," said Guillen. "So we should do what we can to help them achieve those goals and reintegrate into society and their community."

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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