



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2016

HOUSE COMMITTEE ADDRESSES CPS

AUSTIN – The House Human Services Committee met Tuesday to examine the Department of Family and Protective Services and make recommendations for possible improvements, a priority issue for State Representative Ryan Guillen (D -District 31).

"The Texas Legislature needs to take a careful look when addressing the problems apparent in the foster care system right now," said Guillen. "The information provided at this hearing will give us a good part of what we need to start making the changes that need to be made."

The Committee as part of their third interim charge is examining the Department of Family Protective Services' policies and procedures in an effort help improve the Texas foster care system. Following an examination of the current status of the system, a report was given on the progress of the reform.

The department identified some of the problems within the foster care system as being a lack of funding, underpaid caseworkers, lack of quality foster homes, and management problems. However, the department noted that the foster care redesign is proceeding well. As part of the three phase system, the department has been working with communities and families to provide a unified voice for the kids, though work remains to be done.

"I'm glad that people from across Texas have begun to focus in on this serious issue," said Guillen. "By working together, I'm sure we can accomplish a great deal of progress in an area that desperately needs it."

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