

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE APRIL 19, 2017

FOR MORE INFORMATION: COREY.TICKNOR@HOUSE.TEXAS.GOV

GUILLEN PROTECTS VETERANS' EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

H.B. 846 Ends Added Fees, Penalties For Veterans Using Promised Benefits

AUSTIN - State Representative Ryan Guillen (D-Rural South Texas) is an author of HB 846, which will prohibit higher education institutions from charging additional financial and administrative charges on student veterans using military education benefits. On **Thursday**, **April 13**, HB 846 was engrossed in the Texas House.

"This law is important to ensure unreasonable costs or other burdens are not imposed on our student veterans," said Guillen. "We have an obligation to ensure that veterans have access to the educational benefits they have earned."

There have been recent instances of public higher education institutions imposing extra fees on veteran students and even dropping students, due to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs sending late GI Bill tuition funds. When tuition payments are not being received before the respective schools' deadlines, many student veterans have been forced to take out loans or drop classes. HB 846 will prohibit this unfair treatment of student veterans and will ensure they are able to use their educational benefit without undue burdens caused by government inefficiency.

"Our veteran students have earned their benefits and should not be unfairly penalized for federal government delays," said Guillen. "No veteran should be denied the opportunity to receive a higher education because of a bureaucratic technicality. HB 846 will help ensure that doesn't happen."

HB 846 was referred to the Senate committee on Veteran Affairs & Border Security on Wednesday, April 19.

Representative Ryan Guillen serves ten rural South Texas counties in the Texas House of Representatives, including Atascosa, Brooks, Duval, Jim Hogg, Kenedy, La Salle, Live Oak, McMullen, Starr, and Willacy.

###