



RYAN GUILLEN

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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 6, 2018

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GUILLEN ENCOURAGES PUBLIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT IN SOUTH TEXAS

*Ryan Guillen Supports Legislation to Improve Health Services in Rural
Communities*

AUSTIN - In honor of National Public Health Week, Representative Ryan Guillen (D- Rural South Texas) highlights the importance of public health and the hardworking South Texas public health workers by fighting for legislation to improve the health of everyday South Texans.

"Public health initiatives can have an impact on every individual within the community, so they are vital to the overall well-being of the community," said Guillen. "If we improve public health programs, then we improve the health of our community, and this should always be our goal."

Public health refers to state-funded activities and programs whose purpose is to ensure and maintain the physical, mental and emotional wellbeing of people in the community. Public health also establishes and promotes safety standards to protect workers and ensure accommodating work environments.

Guillen has worked on a number of legislative priorities to improve the health of South Texans. He was an author of legislation that made treatment for mental health issues more affordable while also improving patients' access to this necessary care. He also was critical to the passage of HB 13 which established a \$30 million grant to fund community-based services for mental health needs. In recent years, Guillen has also been involved in the passage of legislation which expanded telehealth services in Texas, making medical care cheaper and more accessible to rural Texans, as well as legislation which capped prescription drug copay costs.

"We must continue to promote health initiatives for South Texans and provide our rural community with the services they need at a price they can afford," added Guillen.

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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