



# RYAN GUILLEN

★  
TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
OCTOBER 6, 2017

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
ALEX.GAUDIO@HOUSE.TEXAS.GOV

## **GUILLEN HELPS FIGHT OPIOID CRISIS**

*Law Enforcement Officials Now Able to Obtain and Administer Overdose Cure*

**AUSTIN** - S.B. 1462, which Representative Ryan Guillen (D- Rural South Texas) helped pass in 2015, makes the opioid overdose cure, "Naloxone," available for public access. In a major win for the bill, the Texas Attorney General (AG) recently ruled that law enforcement can carry the drug and administer it to people who are overdosing.

**"The opioid epidemic is something that should not be taken lightly. People are dying and we must combat it in any way possible," said Guillen.**

In 2013, over 700 Texans died due to prescription drug overdoses. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, deaths from prescription drug overdoses have more than tripled since 2001, while heroin related deaths have increased six times as much. S.B. 1462 sought to help diminish opioid related overdoses by allowing Naloxone to be purchased from any participating pharmacy for \$50-100 instead of it being available only through a doctor's prescription. Naloxone blocks the life threatening effects of an opioid overdose for 60-90 minutes, and creates a window of opportunity to contact emergency services if anyone, whether a loved one, friend, or stranger, is in crisis.

The bill allowed public access to Naloxone, but it wasn't clear whether law enforcement officials could carry the drug and administer it. The AG took up the question and ruled this week that the bill does apply to law enforcement officials. Because of the law and Guillen's help in passing it, law enforcement can now carry and administer this life saving drug.

**"This measure saves lives. Law enforcement officials now have the ability to save overdose victims rather than have to wait helplessly until an ambulance arrives," said Guillen.**

Naloxone became available in pharmacies August 1st, 2016, and the AG verified officer usage of the drug October 4th, 2017. Guillen authored similar bills to save the lives of overdose victims in 2015 and 2017.

*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)*

###