



RYAN GUILLEN
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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
BEN.WRIGHT@HOUSE.TEXAS.GOV

**GUILLEN APPLAUDS PASSAGE OF BILLS
SEEKING TO HELP RETIRED TEACHERS**

H.B. 20 Would Add Over \$200M to TRS, H.B. 80 Allows \$1000 Cost-of-Living Adjustment

AUSTIN - On Tuesday, August 1st, H.B. 20 and H.B. 80 passed the Texas House of Representatives. As an author of both measures, State Representative Ryan Guillen (D-Rural South Texas) welcomes and supports passage of these bills to provide relief for retired teacher healthcare costs.

"[H.B. 20 and H.B. 80] are a demonstration of the respect and gratitude that we all owe our public school teachers across the state," Guillen said. "Public school teachers have been the backbone of Texas society for decades now. They equip our future leaders and innovators with the tools they need to succeed, they are remarkable public servants and mentors to our young children; it is easy to think of [H.B. 20 and H.B. 80] as ways to honor their hard work."

Despite his strong words of support, Guillen also cautioned that much more work remained to be done before the legislature could claim a victory on TRS-Care, adding, **"It is important to note that, even with the passage of these measures, which are a great step, we're still miles away from solving the crisis completely."**

Funding for 'TRS-Care' was added by Governor Abbott to the special session agenda late this month, adding to the long list of bills that deal with state funding. TRS Care is an insurance program provided by the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) facing funding shortfalls that hamper its effectiveness. With premiums and deductibles skyrocketing in the past few years, little has been proposed to remedy the problem.

H.B. 20 approaches this problem headfirst, proposing an addition of over \$200 million into the Teacher Retirement System of Texas, helping to alleviate some of the costs to retirees already in the system by reducing premiums, deductibles, and the cost of 2019 plans. Additionally, the bill proposes a reduction of the premiums and maximum out-of-pocket costs for adults with mental disabilities during the 2018-19 plan year, helping to ensure more Texans get the coverage they need. The allocations of funds are left to the discretion of the Teacher Retirement System. H.B. 80 assists retirees by authorizing TRS to provide a \$1000 cost-of-living increase, intended to defray monthly healthcare costs.

"The burden on our state's largest group of retirees and their families is unacceptable. Teachers who dedicated their lives to educating our kids deserve much better. Until we fully meet our obligations, I will continue to work towards real solutions and fight for all our Texas educators."

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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