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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FEBRUARY 23, 2017

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GUILLEN LESSENS FINANCIAL BURDEN ON STUDENTS

H.B. 2307 Limits the amount an institution of higher education can charge for an official transcript.

AUSTIN - State Representative Ryan Guillen (D—Rural South Texas) has filed HB 2307 to limit the amount an institution of higher learning can charge for an official transcript to no more than \$10. The bill would effectively regulate the cost for transcripts in public institutions without imposing new fees or costs for an official transcript.

"To ensure institutions of higher education do not impose unreasonable costs on students trying to obtain their transcripts, there must be a limit for how much institutions can charge. Some charge very little, and others a lot," said Guillen.

Currently, public institutions of higher education may offer transcripts for a fee. Each individual institution has the discretion to raise or lower the fee as they wish. As a result, universities and community colleges can raise the costs of transcripts at any time, imposing extra fees on the students as they see fit. Students looking for work or applying to other schools may need their official transcript and are forced to pay whatever price is required to obtain a document essential to their educational and career advancement.

HB 2307 would supply the state with the proper authority to regulate the costs of transcripts at public institutions, halting any unreasonable increases in fees for transcripts, and guaranteeing fair and reasonable charges. By capping the fee at \$10, an undue burden is lifted off of students that seek to obtain a record of their own grades.

"Texas should be placing the needs of students first," said Guillen. "This legislation will eliminate the rising costs imposed by institutions, and officially eliminate an undue burden on students."

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.

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