



RYAN GUILLEN

★
TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
AUGUST 4, 2017

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

GUILLEN BILL REVERSING CUTS TO ACUTE THERAPY SERVICES PASSES HOUSE, HEADS TO SENATE

H.B. 25 Reverses Cuts to Acute Therapy Services From 84th Session

AUSTIN - Representative Ryan Guillen (D - Rural South Texas) is an author of H.B. 25, which would help restore funding for Medicaid pediatric acute care therapy and help ensure that Texas children with disabilities have access to the vital services they need.

"When the state cut \$350 million in Medicaid support for speech, occupational and physical therapy, Texans suffered," said Guillen. "Clinics and therapists lost funding and were forced to close, and the Texans who depend on these services were left without the medical assistance that they require."

H.B. 25 would appropriate over \$160 million to the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) for Medicaid acute care therapy services, such as physical therapy, that are provided to individuals on Medicaid often with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The appropriations in H.B. 25 would be used to increase the reimbursement rates for Medicaid acute care therapy providers in both Medicaid fee-for-service and managed care. The reimbursement rates for these providers were cut in the 84th session and were partially restored in the 85th session. H.B. 25 would restore 50% of the cut that was made.

"Children need to be able to get the assistance and care that they need to live a healthy life," said Guillen. "The large cut to these services was devastating to families who depend on this specialized care."

This bill would take immediate effect if passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership elected to each house. Otherwise, it would take effect on the 91st day after the last day of the special session.

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

###